

AND

Page 28



Page 3



**Back page**

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## Military court overturns soldier's conviction on sodomy charge Page 3

Page 3

## Misawa students find inspiration at home

Page 3



JENNIFER H. SYAN/Stars and Stripes

Sollars Elementary School fifth-grader Kelsey Ellis gets a hug and kiss from her dad and hero, Chief Petty Officer Jimmy Ellis, during an author's tea at the Misawa Air Base, Japan, school Wednesday afternoon. Students in Karen Griffis' class presented books they wrote, illustrated and constructed about their heroes — many chose to feature a parent.

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## TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....20  
American Roundup .....16-17  
Classified .....22-24  
Comics .....18-20  
Crossword .....19  
Faces .....12  
Horoscope .....18  
Letters .....14  
Opinion .....15  
Sports .....25-32  
TV listings .....13  
Weather .....21  
Your Money .....12

## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Housing development arson:** Investigators want to talk to the driver of a blue van that firefighters saw leaving a housing development in Indian Head, Md., where dozens of homes under construction burned, authorities said Wednesday.

Arson has been ruled the cause at least seven of the fires, and although the investigators do not know if the van was involved, they want to speak with the driver, said Capt. Joe Montminy of the Charles County sheriff's office.

The development, about 25 miles south of Washington, had been criticized by environmentalists, and investigators have not ruled out eco-terrorism, or any other motive such as race, in the blaze that destroyed 12 homes and damaged 14.

**Sept. 11 Fund disbanding:** A Sept. 11 charity backed by a big celebrity-fueled telethon will close its doors Wednesday, having raised more than \$500 million, officials said.

The Sept. 11 Fund collected \$534 million, aided in large part by a television appeal from some of the biggest names in film, television and music.

The one-night fund-raiser 10 days after the 2001 attacks featured George Clooney, Tom Hanks and Bruce Springsteen, and viewers responded by donating nearly \$130 million for victims and their families.

**Antifreeze murder case:** Prosecutors in Georgia said Tuesday they will seek the death penalty against a woman convicted of fatally poisoning her husband with antifreeze and accused of killing a boyfriend the same way.

Lynn Turner, 36, was indicted in October on a charge of malice murder in the 2001 death of her boyfriend, firefighter Randy Thompson. In May, she was convicted in the 1995 murder of her husband, police officer Glenn Turner, and sentenced to life in prison. Authorities allege life insurance was the motive in both cases.

**Kevorkian parole appeal:** The Michigan parole board declined to commute Jack Kevorkian's murder sentence or grant the assisted suicide advocate parole, saying his claims of ill health mirrored claims he had made just a year ago.

In a letter sent to Kevorkian's lawyer, the board said the application essentially was the same as one it rejected in November 2003, and said another attempt could be



Val GEMPS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**Class carolers:** Kristle Protacio, from left, Catie Hoffman, Melissa Schisler and Jordan Juarez, all students at Yokota High School on Yokota Air Base, Japan, sing Christmas carols during a concert at the school's gymnasium Tuesday.

made for similar requests only after a full two years had passed.

Kevorkian's lawyer, Mayer Morganroth, said he would go directing to Gov. Jennifer Granholm and ask her to consider parole or a commuted sentence for the 76-year-old.

## World

**Palestinian elections:** Israel and the Palestinians have agreed on the logistics of the upcoming election to replace Yasser Arafat, a senior Palestinian official said Wednesday, but he denied reports that the two sides had worked out a broader deal to end their decades-old conflict.

The Palestinians had demanded that Israel cease military operations and withdraw from Palestinian cities and towns to allow candidates to campaign for the Jan. 9 presidential elections to replace Arafat, who died last month.

The Palestinians also insisted that residents of east Jerusalem be allowed to vote, a demand that Israel has resisted. The Palestinians want east Jerusalem, annexed by Israel after the 1967 Mideast war, to be their future capital.

**N. Korea nuclear talks:** A key U.S. envoy on the North Korean nuclear issue met offi-

cials in Seoul on Wednesday amid a flurry of diplomacy aimed at persuading Pyongyang to return to six-nation talks on convincing it to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

Joseph DeTrani and Cho Tae-yong, head of Seoul's task force for the nuclear dispute, discussed the crisis that erupted in late 2002 after U.S. officials said North Korea admitted running a secret nuclear program in violation of international agreements.

Following the meeting, Cho told South Korean reporters that DeTrani expressed "disappointment" that no date for the next round of six-party talks has yet been fixed.

**Ukraine electoral reforms:** Ukraine's parliament adopted electoral and constitutional changes Wednesday in a compromise intended to defuse the nation's political crisis — prompting opposition leaders to say they would lift a two-week blockade of government buildings.

The vote came as a surprise after days of political maneuvering and massive street protests following the disputed Nov. 21 presidential runoff election. It suggested that opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko's camp had determined that the prolonged unrest could ultimately weaken the country and his own position ahead of a Dec. 26 runoff of that vote.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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# Soldier's sodomy conviction overturned

BY MICHAEL DOBBS  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A military appeals court has overturned the conviction of a soldier for consensual sodomy in a decision that gay rights activists are hailing as an important legal victory removing some of the barriers to homosexual activity in the armed forces.

The previously unreported decision, handed down last week by the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals, builds on a landmark Supreme Court ruling last year that struck down a Texas sodomy statute. It is believed to be the first time that a military court has upheld the right of consenting adults to engage in oral sex in private.

Last week's court decision involved a male Army specialist who was convicted of engaging in oral sex with a female civilian in a military barracks. Kenneth Bullock was charged under Article

## Ruling may undercut premise of 'don't ask, don't tell'

125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which prohibits "unnatural carnal copulation with another person of the same or opposite sex or with an animal."

"It undercuts the premise of 'don't ask, don't tell,'" said Washington lawyer David Sheldon, who represents several soldiers fighting their dismissal from the armed forces because of homosexual activity. He was referring to a Pentagon policy that has led to the discharge of more than 9,000 openly gay service members over the past decade.

In a statement Wednesday, Army officials downplayed the significance of the case, saying it had more to do with judicial analysis of the facts than sexual misconduct regulations.

"Bullock is a memo opinion, unpublished. It does not change

the law, and it does not find consensual sodomy unconstitutional. The case is fact-specific and thus limited to the individual facts of that case."

Officials at the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals said the Bullock incident took place at Fort Polk in Louisiana.

Although the case involved a man and a woman, legal experts said the principles invoked by the three military judges were equally applicable to homosexual activity. The constitutionality of Article 125 has come under assault as a result of last year's Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which upheld the notion of a "zone of privacy" for sexual relationships involving consenting adults.

This decision means that "even in the military you have a zone of

privacy and can engage in sexual acts in private that used to be considered criminal," said Patricia Logue, senior counsel for Lambda Legal, which seeks to overturn anti-gay military statutes.

Legal experts said the Pentagon could appeal the decision to the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces or to the Supreme Court, on the grounds that the military is a special institution with its own disciplinary procedures.

The Pentagon policy on "don't ask, don't tell" was codified by Congress in a 1993 law that described the military as a distinct social organization that frequently required "forced intimacy with little or no privacy." The law endorsed the right of the armed forces to exclude "persons who demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts" that

could undermine "morale, good order and discipline."

"The Department of Defense policy on homosexual conduct in the military implements a Federal law enacted in 1993 following extensive hearings and debate," Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said in a Wednesday e-mail answer to a Stars and Stripes inquiry on the ruling. "The law would need to be changed to affect the department's policy."

Gay activists have challenged the Pentagon ban and have won some preliminary skirmishes. This week, a dozen former armed forces members discharged for being gay or lesbian filed suit in federal court in Boston, challenging the constitutionality of "don't ask, don't tell." They argued that the military's holding statute conflicted with the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision.

Stars and Stripes contributed to this report.

## Parents heroes in Misawa kids' eyes

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Lance Armstrong may have overcome cancer to win the Tour de France a record six times, but the world-famous cyclist doesn't hold a candle to dads and moms at this northern Japan base.

When Sollars' Elementary School teacher Karen Griffis asked her fifth-graders to choose a hero in their local community to feature in a writing project, most picked one of their parents.

"She does my laundry and sometimes packs my lunch," said Christian Fejeran of her mom, Yvonne Gourdine. "I cannot survive without my mom."

Fejeran was one of 12 students who read about his hero during a special author's tea in Griffis' classroom Wednesday afternoon. Parents and a few siblings ate cookies and drank lemonade while students shared stories and pictures about fathers who coach soccer and play games, of mothers who braid hair and help with homework; and a big brother who also is a best friend. Misawa's heroes in the eyes of 10-year-olds fly jets, wait tables, attend middle school, teach, mentor youth and fix aircraft parts. They are both ordinary and extraordinary.

"As you can see, a hero doesn't have to be a superhero," said Alex Best of his dad, Air Force Col. Eric Best, 35th Operations Group deputy commander and F-16 fighter pilot. "If it weren't for my dad, I would not be here and be the person that I am."

More than half of the fifth-grade



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Austin Pieters says he knows his dad and hero, Robert Pieters, a Navy civilian at Misawa Air Base, Japan, loves him because he tucks him and his sister in at night and plays games with them. Austin featured his father in a book he presented Wednesday during an author's tea at Sollars Elementary School.

ers making presentations Wednesday chose their father as hero. Most of the super dads were either Air Force or Navy members, but their kids talked more about time their fathers spent with family, from dirt biking on weekends to playing a game of catch.

"Everything's special about my dad," said Jennifer Glover of Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jimmy Glover. "He is my favorite person in the whole world."

Megan Goyne said her dad was heroic because "he cares about me. I can talk to him when I want to, and he is just the best dad ever. That is why he is a hero to me."

Master Sgt. Duane Goyne said he was touched by his daughter's words and now more than ever has big shoes to fill.

"I hope I can live up to her expectations," he said, "and not let her down."

Griffis' students spent several months working on their books. They had to come up with their own interview questions, write several drafts and draw pictures for illustrations. They also practiced in front of their classmates for the author's tea. This is the sec-

ond year Griffis has done the project at Sollars after starting it about 10 years ago while teaching in the United States, she said.

"It gives a purpose for their writing and lets them shine as writers," she said of the event. "It also gives them a chance to tell the people who are special to them how much they mean to them. For a lot of parents, this is the first time their kids have publicly said how much they mean to them."

Griffis' classes in the States tended to choose heroes from the community-at-large, such as a business person or teacher. She's found at Misawa about 90 percent of her students select one of their parents, she said. "It shows they have a lot of pride in their family."

The other half of Griffis' class were to present their books Friday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Classroom 202.

A number of dads were to be recognized, and so, were a pastor and even a woman. Brynn Molin proudly said plans to talk about her mom, Kristine, "because she cares about me and she loves me."

E-mail: Jennifer H. Svan at: svanj@stripes.osd.mil

## Speed bumps installed in Yokota school zones

BY VINCE LITTLE  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Hoping to rein in drivers eager to zoom through school zones, base officials recently plopped down several large speed bumps in those areas.

Initially aimed at curbing speeding problems in Yokota's housing areas, the effort is being carried out by the 374th Engineering Squadron under an Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contract. All roads surrounding Yokota High School, Yokota Middle School, Yokota East Elementary School and Yokota West Elementary School already have received the speed bumps.

"They are all being put in under a different task order" than the work in housing areas, said 2nd Lt. Shawn Christensen, the 374th Civil Engineering Squadron's chief of construction management. "They actually started off in housing and are now just getting

ting the school zones. We're not certain how many will be put in because there could be multiple requests and task orders under this type of contract."

Yokota West Elementary School principal Lee Kirsch said the speed bumps are needed to safeguard students.

"While most drivers control their speeds, there are some who ignore the 20-kilometer-per-hour speed limit and thereby endangering children," he said.

The local Japanese contractor needed only a day or two to install the speed bumps, Christensen said, so many motorists were caught by surprise.

"They provide increased awareness that they are driving in a restricted speed area because of a school crossing," he added.

Elsewhere on base, civil engineer officials have wrapped a web of scaffolding around the water tower on Yokota's west side for use on a repainting project.

E-mail: Vince Little at: little@stripes.osd.mil

## Volunteers needed for Misawa Cookie Caper

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Volunteers are needed to donate holiday cookies and individually wrapped candy and to assemble hundreds of cookie gift packages for delivery during this year's Cookie Caper.

During the Cookie Caper, Misawa community members deliver the treats to unaccompanied airmen, sailors and personnel on temporary duty.

Donations can be dropped off at the base chapel on Dec. 13 from 7-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-5 p.m.

Call Lisa Carter at the American Red Cross at DSN 226-3016 for more information or to help.

From staff reports

## Correction

A photo caption on Page 2 of Thursday's edition should have said that Brig. Gen. William Rev is the commander of the 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa Air Base, Japan.

# Cls grill Rumsfeld on lack of armor

By ROBERT BURNS  
The Associated Press

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Disgruntled U.S. soldiers complained to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday about the lack of armor for their vehicles and long deployments, drawing a blunt retort from the Pentagon chief.

"You go to war with the Army you have," he said in a rare public airing of rank-and-file concerns among the troops.

In his prepared remarks earlier, Rumsfeld had urged the troops — mostly National Guard and Reserve soldiers — to discount critics of the war in Iraq and to help "win the test of wills" with the insurgents.

Army Spc. Thomas Wilson said the 278th Regimental Combat Team that is composed mainly of citizen soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard, asked Rumsfeld in a question-and-answer session why vehicle armor is still in short supply, nearly two years after the start of the war that ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Why do we soldiers have to dig through land landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to uparmor our vehicles?" Wilson asked. A big cheer arose from the approximately 2,300 soldiers in the cavernous hangar.

Rumsfeld hesitated and asked Wilson to repeat his question.

"We do not have proper armored vehicles to carry with us



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has his picture taken Wednesday with American soldiers at Camp Udairi, north of Kuwait City.

AP photos

north," Wilson said.

Rumsfeld replied that troops should make the best of the conditions they face and said the Army was pushing manufacturers of vehicle armor to produce it as fast as humanly possible.

Another soldier complained that active-duty Army units sometimes get priority over the National Guard and Reserve units for the best equipment in Iraq.

"There's no way I can prove it, but I am told the Army is breaking its neck to see that there is not" discrimination against the National Guard and Reserve in terms of providing equipment, Rumsfeld said.

Yet another soldier asked, without putting it to Rumsfeld as a direct criticism, how much longer the Army will continue using its "stop loss" power to prevent soldiers from leaving the service who are otherwise eligible to retire or quit.

Rumsfeld said that condition was simply a fact of life for soldiers at time of war.



At Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Spc. Thomas Wilson, left, of the 278th Regimental Combat Team — composed mainly of reservists in the Tennessee Army National Guard — asks Rumsfeld why vehicle armor is still in short supply, nearly two years after the war in Iraq began.

## Air Force's top lawyer might face charges

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A military investigation has concluded that the Air Force's top lawyer engaged in improper relationships with more than a dozen women over the last decade, two Defense Department officials familiar with the findings said.

While overseeing the work of 3,200 people, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Fiskus, the Air Force judge advocate general, allegedly conducted affairs with enlisted women, officers and civilian employees in violation of military rules against fraternization, the officials said.

Charges against Fiskus could be made as early as Wednesday, the officials said. Defense officials and others in the Air Force legal community expect that Fiskus, if found guilty, likely would be drummed out of the ranks of general officers by being demoted to at least two ranks and retired as a colonel.

If he pleads guilty or is found guilty at court-martial, Fiskus would be the first judge advocate general relieved for improper conduct, a Pentagon official said. The investigation is raising eyebrows inside the Air Force because of surprise at the amount of evidence, said the Pentagon officials, who spoke on the condition that they not be named because they were not authorized to speak about a sensitive pending case.

The investigation's conclusions were sent last month to Gen. Donald G. Cook, chief of the Air Education and Training Command, who is supposed to determine whether to take action against Fiskus.

### Greetings for deployed airmen

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Family members and friends can send online holiday greetings to airmen deployed to Iraq during the holidays through the Iraq Newslink Web site.

The greetings are free and will be posted on the site. Greetings should be text only, with no photos or graphics, and no longer than 50 words.

To send a greeting or for more information, go to [www.afnews.af.mil/iraq](http://www.afnews.af.mil/iraq) and click on the "Send a Holiday Greeting" button on the right side of the page.

### Personal training certification

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Base officials are seeking personnel interested in becoming licensed personal trainers.

An Aerobics and Fitness Association of America personal trainer certification course will be offered Feb. 4-6 in Seoul. Once trainers are certified, they may apply for contractor jobs through Yokota's Fitness & Sports Program.

The course is \$365 for Department of Defense ID cardholders and \$420 for others. Registration includes the three-day certification workshop, a study guide, written and practical exams, one-year AFAA membership, one-year subscription to the American Fitness magazine and 15 continuing education units for AFAA-certified professionals.

The workshop features lectures on various fitness topics, practical demonstrations, and written and practical examinations.

Call Senior Airman Jessica Peris at DSN 225-6133, for more information.

From staff reports

## Report on cadet sex assaults faults Air Force Academy commanders

By JON SARCHÉ  
The Associated Press

DENVER — A Pentagon report critical of the role of commanders at the Air Force Academy was blasted as inadequate by at least one former cadet who said she was raped by a classmate. Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz blamed, but did not identify, eight Air Force officers for their roles in policies that oversaw sexual-assault reporting at the academy, according to a summary of the report. Twenty-one other officers were found to have acted appropriately.

"It looks to me like they took a list of officers who are not on their good list and held them accountable when the officers who actually were the ones committing the wrongdoings at the academy were on the list that were exonerated," former cadet Beth Davis said Tuesday.

Davis, who left the academy as a junior in August 2002, said she was punished for reporting that she was raped — receiving a demerit for having sex in a dorm — and said her alleged attacker was not prosecuted.

The Pentagon did not release Schmitz's full report. Instead, Schmitz quoted from his report in a Dec. 3 memo to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld made public Tuesday.

Schmitz said academy commanders failed to recognize and deal with the seriousness of sexual assaults against female cadets. Academy leaders should have better role models and should have kept a closer watch on their commands, he said.

"We conclude that the overall root cause of the sexual assault problems at the Air Force Academy was the failure of successive chains of command over the past 10 years to acknowledge the severity of the problem," Schmitz wrote.

Responding to the criticism, assistant Air Force secretary Michael Dominguez said on NBC's "Today" show Wednesday that academy officials "could have and should have done many things better. But, remember, these people were wrestling with a national problem. The failure was that they really didn't recognize the magnitude of it."

Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen.

John Rosa said he could not comment on the full report, but said there are indications of progress in making cultural changes to prevent problems.

Outside investigations have concluded the academy's culture created conditions that contributed to the problem. That included lingering resistance to having female cadets at all.

Last year, nearly 150 women came forward with accusations that they had been sexually assaulted by fellow cadets between 1993 and 2003.

Many alleged they were punished for infractions such as drinking, ignored or ostracized by commanders for speaking out. Two cadets have been charged with sexual assault stemming from the investigation.

In response to sexual assault issues at the academy and in the armed forces, David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said the Pentagon soon would announce a militarywide policy protecting the confidentiality of people who report being sexually assaulted.

"First and foremost, we want victims to come forward for help," something that hasn't happened enough in the past, Chu said.



# U.S. combat deaths at 1,001

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Pentagon said Wednesday that the number of U.S. combat deaths in Operation Iraqi Freedom now is above 1,000.

An American soldier was slain Tuesday by small-arms fire while on patrol in Baghdad. On Wednesday, the Pentagon's Web site listed the total number of U.S. combat deaths at 1,001.

The military also said a Marine died in a vehicle accident in western Baghdad. The two deaths brought the number of U.S. military who have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003 to 1,279, according to an Associated Press tally.

In Iraq, insurgents launched assaults around Samarra on Wednesday, trading gunfire with U.S. forces, attacking a convoy, and blowing up a police station after looting its armory.

The gunmen in Samarra stormed a police station, looted the weapons inside and blew up the building, according to a police officer. A policeman and a child standing nearby were killed during the clashes before the insurgents fled.

U.S. soldiers were also attacked by small-arms fire near a traffic intersection, but one was hurt. The soldiers began checking cars after the incident and fired at two vehicles that failed to stop, killing both drivers, the military said.

A suicide bomber also detonated his explosives-packed car near two U.S. Bradley fighting vehicles parked under an American base, injuring one Iraqi civilian, while insurgents attacked American forces at another location with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. No U.S. casualties

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,279 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 999 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,141 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 890 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One Marine was killed Tuesday in a nonhostile vehicle accident in Anbar province.

■ One U.S. soldier died Tuesday in Baghdad of wounds received from small arms fire.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Cpl. Joseph O. Behnke, 45, New York; died in a vehicle accident Saturday in Baghdad, assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, New York City.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Kyle A. Eggers, 27, Euless, Texas; died Sunday in Habbaniya when his vehicle was struck by an explosive; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Greaves, South Korea.

■ Army Sgt. Michael L. Boatright, 24, Whitesboro, Texas; killed by an explosive Saturday in Baghdad; assigned to the 20th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.



British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon visits British troops in Basra, Iraq, on Wednesday. As Hoon discussed preparations for Iraq's Jan. 30 elections with Basra's governor, U.S. troops fought insurgents who launched multiple assaults in Samarra.

In southern Iraq, British Defense Minister Geoff Hoon met with some of Britain's 9,000 soldiers who recently returned from a mission in support of U.S.-led efforts to clear insurgents from a wide area south of Baghdad, spokesman Maj. David Gibb said.

Hoon discussed election preparations with Basra's governor, Hassan al-Rashid, during his one-day visit.

Palisley Dodds and Vickie Chachere of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

# DOD official: Rumsfeld 'not embarrassed' by questions

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was "not embarrassed" by tough questions from troops Wednesday about the lack of armored vehicles in Iraq and other issues, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

Rather, such tough questions are the norm for the secretary when he meets with troops, Pentagon spokesman Lawrence D. Rita told Pentagon reporters.

Rumsfeld received a very pointed question about the lack of armored vehicles in Iraq by Army Spc. Thomas Wilson during a "town meeting" at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on Wednesday.

"Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to up-arm our vehicles?" asked Wilson, a member of the 27th Regimental Combat Team that is composed mainly of citizen soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard, according to the Associated Press.

Di Rita said that after hearing a broadcast of the town hall meeting, he "called and spoke with" the deputy commanding general of U.S. forces in Kuwait, Maj. Gen. Gary Speer, to ask him about the armor issue.

Di Rita said that Speer was "not certain of the specific situation [Wilson] was referring to,"

but that in general, it is the policy of U.S. commanders on the ground in Iraq to load unarmored Humvees on flat-bed trucks — which themselves are not armored, Di Rita said — and "convoy them" into Iraq.

The armored Humvees, meanwhile, are driven by soldiers into Iraq from Kuwait, Di Rita said. "The policy is that as units move into the theater ... if [their vehicles] are not armored, they are conveyed in, not driven," Di Rita said. And once in Iraq, unarmored Humvees "do not leave the base camp," but are reserved for routine errands inside the base.

Furthermore, Di Rita said, since the Army first identified a need for more armored Humvees, in the fall of 2003, the service "has done just a superb job of turning around a component of industrial base that was doing different things" and turning the manufacturers to making both armored Humvees and armor kits for other vehicles.

At the time, Humvee makers were "producing something on order of 15 armored Humvees per month," Di Rita said.

Today, that number is 450, he said, with \$1.2 billion spent since August 2003 on armor and armored Humvees alone. As a result, "three out of four" Humvees now in Iraq are armored, he said.

Di Rita said that the fact that commanders did not anticipate the need for more armored vehicles in Iraq until well after the announced end of major combat operations did not reflect poor planning on the part of Pentagon leaders, as some critics have alleged.

"Combat planning is not a crystal ball; it's not predictions," Di Rita said. "It's the ability to be flexible enough to change things as needed."

Pressed for detail concerning the 27th Regimental Combat Team's situation as it prepares to move into Iraq, Di Rita said that

the unit is supposed to "fall in on existing armored Humvees" that are being left behind by a unit that is redeploying home.

Asked whether the recent announcement that more than 10,000 troops will be held in Iraq longer than planned in order to provide security for elections might cause a shortage of such "swapped out" vehicles, Brig. Gen. David Rodriguez, the Joint Staff's Deputy Director for Regional Operations, said that "commanders have on the ground ... have adjusted their plans accordingly."

Rodriguez said Wilson would not face informal or formal repercussions or disciplinary actions for his question to Rumsfeld.

"We don't take action (against troops) for asking questions," Rodriguez said. "That soldier will keep doing the job he [was] doing."

The Associated Press contributed to this story from Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

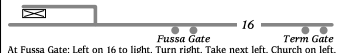
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Sunday School	1000
Morning Service	1100
Evening Service	1800
<b>Monday</b>	
Faith Bible Institute	1830
<b>Tuesday</b>	
Soul Winning & Visitation	1830
<b>Wednesday</b>	
Evening Service & Prayer Mtg	1900
Patch & Pee Web Clubs	1900

<b>Friday</b>	
Awana Club	1900
<b>Monthly</b>	
Mens Prayer Breakfast	1st Sat
Ladies Meeting	1st Sat
◆ Dec. 4th	Adult Christmas Banquet (Sat. 6:30 pm)
◆ Dec. 5th	YBC Christmas Program
◆ Dec 5 9:30	Youth "Whisper" to "Gospel" Home
◆ Dec. 12th	Our Cantata, Holiday Music, "Christmas at Home"

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# Appeals trial opens for 6 in Cole bombing

BY AHMED AL-HAJ  
The Associated Press

SANA, Yemen — The appeals trial of six men convicted in the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole opened Wednesday with prosecutors demanding the execution of two defendants who escaped the death penalty.

The first convictions in the al-Qaida attack that killed 17 American sailors were handed down in September, with four Yemenis sen-

tenced to five to 10 years in prison. Two men — Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, a Saudi suspected of being an associate of Osama bin Laden, and Yemeni militant Jamal al-Badawi — were sentenced to death. Al-Badawi, interrupting proceedings from behind bars in the courtroom dock, shouted to Judge Saeed al-Qatata that the proceedings were a sham.

Prosecutors said defendants Fahd al-Qasab and Maamoun al-Msouda, who were sentenced to 10 and eight years respectively, should be

executed because their collaboration in planning the attack has been proved. The prosecution added that Yemeni law stipulates that any crime that results in a death is punishable by death.

Al-Nashiri, who is believed to have masterminded the Cole attack and also thought to have directed the 1998 bombings at the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, was the only defendant not present during the trial. He is in U.S. custody at an undisclosed location.

## Jenkins' citizenship

TOKYO — U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins, settling in northern Japan after his release from a military prison and four decades in North Korea, has expressed hopes of becoming a Japanese citizen, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Asahi newspaper said Jenkins, who abandoned his Army unit in 1965 and defected to North Korea, would soon apply for permanent residency in Japan on the remote island of Sado, where he arrived on Tuesday.

## Crown princess recovering

TOKYO — Japan's Crown Princess Masako, who turned 41 on Thursday, said she is recovering from a psychological disorder brought on by the pressures of royal life but won't resume her official duties for "some time."

Masako has been out of the public view since December 2003, when she withdrew from official duties due to illness. Under pressure, palace officials later announced that the princess had a stress-related disorder and was receiving counseling and medication.

Her husband, Crown Prince Naruhito, said in May that a decade of palace life and pressure to produce an heir have left her exhausted and he blamed unidentified palace officials. Under Japanese succession laws only males are eligible to assume the throne, but the couple's only child, Aiko, is a girl.

From The Associated Press

# Japanese papers receive e-mails from man claiming to be North Korean leader's son

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Akihiro Ito had seen that face before. The heaviest stranger in Beijing's international airport bore a striking resemblance to Kim Jong Nam, a son of reclusive North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il.

So Ito and four other Japanese journalists walked up and handed him their cards — leading to a bizarre exchange of e-mails with a man claiming to have the most intimate of views into the secretive communist state.

This week Ito's Yomiuri newspaper and other top Japanese dailies carried details of the encounter in

September and the ensuing computer messages, stirring speculation about the inner workings of North Korea's first family.

"Greetings. I'm Kim Jong Nam," began an e-mail last Friday to Ito, a Shanghai-based correspondent. "It was a pleasure to meet you at the Beijing International Airport on Sept. 25."

"The end of the year is nearing. I wish you good health and happiness. Dec. 3, Kim Jong Nam," concluded the message, written in Korean and sent from a computer address based in South Korea. The four other China-based journalists received similar messages.

The e-mails contained little information about the purported

sender or conditions in North Korea, despite questions posed by Ito and the others. The man claimed to "work for my country," and said at one point that "no decision has made on the succession issue."

On Tuesday, Ito received an e-mail, ostensibly from the same person, saying he was ending the exchange because the Japanese journalists had expressed doubts about his identity.

The encounter and the e-mail exchanges — like most everything about North Korea — are shrouded in mystery. Ito believes it likely the sender is the same man he met in Beijing.

But whether that man is Kim Jong Nam is another question.

"We still don't know who he really is, or whether he's really Kim Jong Nam himself," Ito said.

The exchange has raised questions about the younger Kim's place in the North Korean power structure. It comes amid reports that some portraits of Kim Jong Il have been removed from public places.

Pongyong has denied the reports.

Kim Jong Il is believed to have married three times and to consider a son by a subsequent wife a possible successor. That son, Kim Jong Chol, once studied in a Swiss school and is believed to be working at the propaganda department of the North's ruling Workers' Party of Korea.

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## IN THE STATES

## Congress OKs historic intelligence overhaul

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress on Wednesday ordered the biggest overhaul of U.S. intelligence in a half-century, replacing a network geared to the Cold War fight against communism with a post-Sept. 11 structure requiring military and civilian spy agencies to work together against terrorists intent on holy war.

The Senate overwhelmingly passed the legislation 89-2, one day after the House easily pushed through the compromise strongly endorsed by President Bush.

"The world has changed," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn.

"Our terrorist enemies today make no distinction between soldiers and civilians, between foreign and domestic locations when they attack us."

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks three years ago on New York City and Washington, which killed nearly 3,000 people, proved that

the intelligence operation established in World War II and modified afterward to fight communism wasn't effective enough against the threats of the new century, senators said Wednesday.

"We are rebuilding a structure that was designed for a different enemy at a different time, a structure that was designed for the Cold War and has not proved agile enough to deal with the threats of the 21st century," said Senate Governmental Affairs chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine.

Sens. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., and James Inhofe, R-Okla., voted against the bill, with Byrd saying that it was folly to expect a law to make America safer from foreign terrorists.

"No legislation alone can forestall a terrorist attack on our nation," Byrd said.

Outside the Senate doors were several of the family members who had killed Congress carrying pictures of their loved ones

### Major points of the intelligence reform legislation

- Creates a new position, director of national intelligence, who will be the principal adviser to the president and coordinate the nation's spy agencies. The position will be above the CIA director.
- Establishes a National Counterterrorism Center for planning intelligence missions.
- Creates a Privacy and Civil Liberties Board of private citizens, with access to all government agencies, to oversee privacy protections.
- Establishes minimum standards for birth certificates and driver's licenses and improves security of Social Security cards.

— The Associated Press

who died in Pennsylvania, the World Trade Center or the Pentagon.

"I don't think we're really digested it yet," said Mary Fethet, a social worker from New Canaan, Conn. whose 24-year-old son, Brad, died at the World Trade Center. "It's been very emotional."

The Sept. 11 commission, in its

July report, said disharmony among intelligence agencies contributed to the inability of government officials to stop the attacks. The government failed to recognize the danger posed by al-Qaida and was ill-prepared to respond to the terrorist threat, the report concluded.

In response, the legislation establishes a new director of nation-

al intelligence to oversee the nation's 15 military and civilian spy agencies and make sure they work together to forestall future attacks. The bipartisan commission said that didn't happen before terrorists flew airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The intelligence director will not be part of the president's Cabinet but is to have the same access as the defense secretary and the secretary of state. He will have authority to move intelligence assets around the globe to keep an eye on terrorist groups like al-Qaida — as well as nations like North Korea and Libya.

Bush has not yet decided whom to nominate to be the first intelligence director, spokesman Scott McClellan said. "We will move as quickly as we can, obviously, to implement the provisions and move forward on the steps it calls for in this legislation," he said.

### Bush signs \$388 billion spending bill

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Wednesday signed into law a \$388 billion legislative package that covers the spending of every federal agency but the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security.

Congress sent the measure, which covers the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, to the president on Tuesday. A temporary spending measure was to expire at midnight.

Congress passed the package Nov. 20. Lawmakers delayed sending it to the White House until they overturned language that would have made it easier for some members of Congress and their aides to enter Internal Revenue Service offices and see income tax returns.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the president was not troubled by the billions of dollars in special-interest measures added onto the bill by lawmakers.

"The fact that members of Congress worked together with us to meet our highest priorities and show spending restraint elsewhere in the budget is an important step in the president's hopes of reducing the deficit," McClellan said.

From wire reports

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# IBM to sell PC business to Chinese firm

By BRUCE MEYERSON

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — International Business Machines Corp. is selling a majority stake in its pioneering personal computer business to China's biggest computer maker, Lenovo Group Ltd., for \$1.75 billion in cash and stock.

The widely expected deal, one of the biggest Chinese overseas acquisitions ever, would make Le-

novo the third-largest PC company in the world. IBM currently holds that spot.

The sale extends IBM's long-running transition from leader and innovator in computer hardware to a dominant force in computer services, software and consulting.

About 9,500 IBM workers will become employees of the new company, doubling Lenovo's work force.

The stock IBM is receiving will give it an 18.9 percent stake in the merged company, which will have an estimated 8 percent share of the worldwide PC market. The combined PC revenue for the two companies in 2003 was \$12 billion.

The deal will give Lenovo ownership of two well-respected IBM brands: the ThinkPad laptop name and the ThinkCentre desktop name.

Stephen M. Ward, Jr., currently IBM senior vice president and general manager of IBM's Personal Systems Group, will serve as the chief executive officer of Lenovo following completion of the transaction. Yungqing Yang, currently vice chairman, president and chief executive officer of Lenovo, will serve as the chairman of Lenovo after the transaction.

Lenovo is China's biggest computer maker, claiming a 27 per-

cent market share, as well as the biggest in Asia. Its shares are traded in Hong Kong.

The companies expect that by combining operations, they'll be able to save money on manufacturing and expand their razor-thin profit margins despite intense pricing pressures. Lenovo also hopes the IBM brand and the company's vast corporate client base will bolster its sagging fortunes.

## Principi leaving VA

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi told his staff he was resigning, a senior Bush administration official said Wednesday. Principi is the ninth member of Bush's 15-person Cabinet to leave. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a decorated Vietnam veteran.

His resignation letter, dated Nov. 16, was released by the White House. Principi, 60, commanded a patrol boat during the Vietnam War and earned a Bronze Star with "v" for valor.

Also Wednesday, Treasury Secretary John Snow accepted President Bush's offer to remain in the Cabinet.

Bush's decision kept an important member of his economic team in place as the president seeks to promote his second-term priorities of simplifying tax laws and overhauling Social Security.

## Commuter van crash

LOS ANGELES — A commuter van from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory tumbled 200 feet off a twisting mountain road Wednesday, killing at least three people, authorities said.

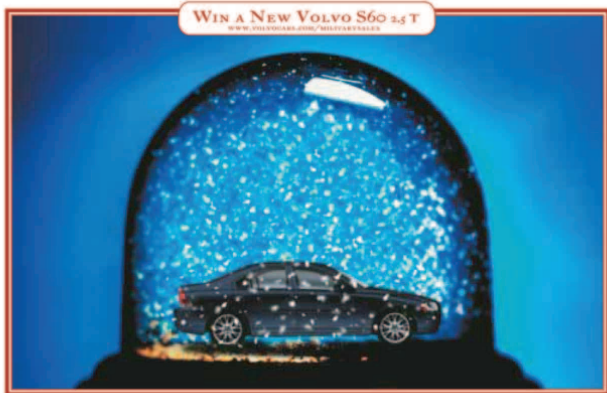
The van carrying 11 people, including a driver, plunged off Angeles Crest Highway in the Angeles National Forest at about 6:30 a.m. and rolled down the mountainside. Los Angeles County Fire Department Inspector Ron Haralson said.

"One person was able to get out of the van and make his way up to the road" to get help, Haralson said.

Fire inspectors initially said four people had died in the crash, but they lowered the death toll during the rescue operation.

Those three were pronounced dead at the scene.

From The Associated Press



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# Doctors see promise in new breast cancer drug

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A newer drug clearly outperforms tamoxifen at preventing breast cancer from returning and should become the first-choice treatment for most women who have had the disease, doctors are reporting.

The drug, Arimidex, might be able to prevent 70 to 80 percent of the most common

type of tumors that occur in women after menopause, compared to the 50 percent that tamoxifen is credited with warding off, their research suggests.

Women who took Arimidex for five years after they were treated for early-stage breast cancer were less likely to have cancer recur, develop in the other breast or spread throughout their bodies than women who took tamoxifen.

"Arimidex is a more effective treatment.

This is a better drug," said Dr. Aman Buzdar, a specialist at the University of Texas' M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He headed the U.S. portion of the study, which involved nearly 2,000 American women and an additional 7,300 from 20 other countries.

It was funded by Arimidex's maker, AstraZeneca PLC. Results were reported Wednesday at a meeting in Texas of breast cancer experts and were published online by the British medical journal The Lancet.

Tamoxifen revolutionized breast cancer treatment when it came into use some three decades ago. It blunts the effects of estrogen, a hormone that promotes the growth of about three-fourths of the tumors that occur in postmenopausal women.

Arimidex, known generically as anastrozole, is one of three newer drugs called aromatase inhibitors, which prevent estrogen from being made in the first place.

## Festival of Lights begins



LAS CRUCES (N.M.) SUN-NEWS/AP

Rabbi Gerald Kane lights the first candle on a menorah Tuesday with others at his house in Las Cruces, N.M. It was the first night of Hanukkah, the eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights that commemorates the rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees after their victory over the Syrians.

## Study suggests laptop heat may impede male fertility

BY LEE BOWMAN

Scripts Howard News Service

All that computer time on the road or at home may be taking more of a toll on some men than they realize.

Reproductive experts warn in a new study that heat generated by laptop computers can have an adverse effect on male fertility.

The study, reported Thursday in the journal Human Reproduction, showed that testicular temperatures rose by between 4.6 and 5 degrees Fahrenheit in an hour among a group of healthy male volunteers.

"Laptops can reach internal operating temperatures of over 158 degrees, they are frequently positioned close to the scrotum and as well as being capable of producing direct local heat, they require the user to sit with thighs close together to balance the machine," said Dr. Yefim Shenkin, associate professor of urology and director of Male Infertility and Microsurgery at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Shenkin and colleagues

worked with 29 healthy volunteers aged 21 to 35, measuring testicular temperatures with and without working laptops during two one-hour sessions.

Previous studies have shown that increases in testicular temperatures between 1.8 and 5.2 degrees have a sustained negative effect on sperm development and fertility.

"The body needs to maintain a proper testicular temperature for normal sperm production and development," Shenkin said. "Portable computers in a laptop position produce scrotal hyperthermia by both the direct heating effect of the computer and the sitting position necessary to balance the computer."

The researcher noted that by next year, some 60 million laptop computers will be in use in the United States and some 150 million worldwide. "Continued improvements in power, size and price of laptop computers have favored their increased use in younger people, and laptop sales now exceed those of desktop computers," Shenkin said, adding

that higher power requirements may generate even more heat.

Surface temperatures of the two brands of computers used in the study increased from nearly 88 degrees at the start of the experiment to nearly 104 degrees after one hour.

Shenkin said "we don't know the exact frequency and time of heat exposure capable of producing reversible or irreversible changes in sperm development," and thus can't say precisely how long it might be possible to use a laptop at each sitting.

"Until further studies provide more information on this type of thermal exposure, teenage boys and young men may want to consider limiting their use of laptop computers on their laps, as long-term use may have a detrimental effect on their reproductive health."

Shenkin said it's possible that such type of external heating or protection devices might help reduce the effect, but cautioned "it is essential to confirm the protective effect in a clinical study to prevent advertising and use of inefficient and useless products."

## Teen wins U.S. Chess Championship

SAN DIEGO — A 16-year-old boy has won the U.S. Chess Championship, making him the youngest player to claim the title since 14-year-old Bobby Fischer won it in 1958. Hikaru Nakamura of White Plains, N.Y., won the \$25,000 prize Monday after beating Aleksey Shtrumpak, 34, of Rego Park, N.Y., in two overtime matches. The 11-day tournament began with a field of 65 competitors.

Nakamura, who was born in Japan, was taught chess by his stepfather and began playing competitively at age 7. A little more than two years later, he qualified as an American master. Nakamura became an American grandmaster last year, eclipsing by a few months Fischer's record of attaining grandmaster status at age 15.

## College high schools get \$30M from Gates group

SEATTLE — Nearly \$30 million in grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will be used to expand a national network of early college high schools, intended to provide a fast track to college for underserved young people, the foundation said Tuesday.

The schools, working with a university or college, stress rigorous curricula in seeking to increase high-school graduation rates and college readiness for minority youth, according to the foundation. Students can earn a high school diploma and two years of college credit or an associate's degree.

From The Associated Press

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## FRIDAY EVENING / DECEMBER 10, 2004

MOVIES

• SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P **ESPNews Pacific Report King of the Hill Bobby Jones a Quiz Bow! (Comedy)	(35) Guiding Light The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	7:30 The Show We're Not Gonna Take It! Eric loses his job (Comedy)	The Apprentice (CC)	Headline News Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (N)	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)	Late Show (CC)		
7	AFN-AT (5:46) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	(35) Guiding Light The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	(17) General Hospital (CC)	Headline News Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (N)	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)	Late Show (CC)			
8	NEWS Hardball With Chris Matthews	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	***SportsCenter ***College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)
9	SPTS The Simpsons Sideshow Bob turns a killer	Everybody Loves Raymond (Comedy)	Charmed Phoebe accidentally casts a spell that lets her teenage personality to take over (CC)	Boston Public A nacy magazine plans to shoot provocative photos of a student on campus (CC)	Blue Planet	Friends Monica wonders about "Yada yada"	Seinfeld George wonders about "Yada yada"	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)			
10	AFN-FM SpongeBob Rugrats (CC)	All Grown Up Dave-Barbrian Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh	Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh	Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh	Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh	Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh	Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh	Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh	Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh	Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh	Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh	Jimmy Neutron Drake & Josh
11	AFN-AM The Simpsons Sideshow Bob turns a killer	Everybody Loves Raymond (Comedy)	Charmed Phoebe accidentally casts a spell that lets her teenage personality to take over (CC)	Boston Public A nacy magazine plans to shoot provocative photos of a student on campus (CC)	Blue Planet	Friends Monica wonders about "Yada yada"	Seinfeld George wonders about "Yada yada"	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)			
12	TM Crossing Jordan The "Sad, She Said" Jane reports accidentally killing the man who assaulted her (CC)	Everybody Loves Raymond (Comedy)	Charmed Phoebe accidentally casts a spell that lets her teenage personality to take over (CC)	Boston Public A nacy magazine plans to shoot provocative photos of a student on campus (CC)	Blue Planet	Friends Monica wonders about "Yada yada"	Seinfeld George wonders about "Yada yada"	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)			
13	TM Crossing Jordan The "Sad, She Said" Jane reports accidentally killing the man who assaulted her (CC)	Everybody Loves Raymond (Comedy)	Charmed Phoebe accidentally casts a spell that lets her teenage personality to take over (CC)	Boston Public A nacy magazine plans to shoot provocative photos of a student on campus (CC)	Blue Planet	Friends Monica wonders about "Yada yada"	Seinfeld George wonders about "Yada yada"	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)			
14	PBS Dragon Tails and seals take ride (TVS)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Washington Week (N) (CC)	Wall Street Week (N) (CC)	Now With Bill Moyers (N) (CC)	Teaser Carlson: Unfiltered (N) (CC)	Journal Editor (N) (CC)	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)				
15	SHOW White & Blonde 2: Red White & Blonde 2: Red White & Blonde 2: Red	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)	***The School of Rock (2003) Comedy Jack Black, Jason Cusack, Mike White. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. PG-13 (CC)
16	A&E Crossing Jordan The "Sad, She Said" Jane reports accidentally killing the man who assaulted her (CC)	Everybody Loves Raymond (Comedy)	Charmed Phoebe accidentally casts a spell that lets her teenage personality to take over (CC)	Boston Public A nacy magazine plans to shoot provocative photos of a student on campus (CC)	Blue Planet	Friends Monica wonders about "Yada yada"	Seinfeld George wonders about "Yada yada"	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)			
17	DISC To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
18	TFC Wazz Up Wazz Up	Star Circle Guest	Bids Si Mister, Bids Si Mister	(35) Insider	Dong Puno Live	Baiting America (N) (CC)	Morning Star	(40) Masayang Tanghal Bayan				
19	CNN+ Larry King Live	CNN World News	World Sport	Business International	Asia Tonight	Biz Asia	CNN World News	World Sport	Biz Asia			
20	GOLF What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)
21	TLC What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)	What Not to Wear Diana Friend models over Diana (CC)
22	TOON Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends	Teen Titans	Powerpuff Girls!	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon shorts.	Looney Tunes	I Am Weasel	Sheep in the Big City	Detective Dog			
23	ANPL Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)	Venom ER Patient drinks rat poison snake bites tourist (CC)
24	COM (5:00) *** "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (1986, Comedy) Matthew Broderick, Sam, Jeffrey Jones. A brash teen and his friends have an adventure in Chicago. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)	*** Rushmore (1999, Comedy) Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Oliver Williams. A teen overachiever and a yoonie live for a teacher's love. (CC)
25	NOCA (5:00) *** "The World Is Not Enough" (1999, Action) Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Marceau, Robert Carlyle, James Bond must protect a murdered industrialist's daughter. (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)
26	SPKX Remington Steele (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)
27	BET 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Mos Def video.	BET.com Count- down	Walk of Fame: A Tribute to Smokey Robinson	Smokey Robinson receives BET's Walk of Fame Award.	Club Comic View Eric Schwartz.	Club Comic View Eric Schwartz.	Club Comic View Eric Schwartz.	Club Comic View Eric Schwartz.	Club Comic View Eric Schwartz.	Club Comic View Eric Schwartz.	Club Comic View Eric Schwartz.	Club Comic View Eric Schwartz.
28	COURT Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)	Body of Evidence From the Case The Simpsons (CC)
29	STR-UL The Simpsons (CC)	The Drew Carey Show (CC)	St. News Focus Asia (CC)	Friends (CC)	***Wrestling Stupid Behavior On Tape (CC)	***Wrestling Stupid Behavior On Tape (CC)	***Wrestling Stupid Behavior On Tape (CC)	***Wrestling Stupid Behavior On Tape (CC)	***Wrestling Stupid Behavior On Tape (CC)	***Wrestling Stupid Behavior On Tape (CC)	***Wrestling Stupid Behavior On Tape (CC)	***Wrestling Stupid Behavior On Tape (CC)
30	LIFE (5:00) *** "Christmas in My Home- town" (1996, Drama) Melissa Gilbert, Tom Mankiewicz, Terry T. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)	"To Live Again" (1998, Drama) Bette Midler, Annette Bening, Frances Sterne. A social worker forms a bond with a mentally ill woman. (CC)
31	ABOAF 7th Heaven: How Do a storm threaten to postpone Lucy and Kevin's wedding (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)	Smallville "Phoebe" Clark loses control and injures a college student. Hearts are broken by winter storms. (CC)
32	HIST The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)	The Action Adventures Great lost class. (CC)
33	STW-M (5:10) Movie	(45) Movie	(45) Movie	(45) Movie	(45) Movie	(45) Movie	(45) Movie	(45) Movie	(45) Movie	(45) Movie	(45) Movie	(45) Movie
34	ADV 1 (5:30) Skutumpah in Friesland	Into the Death Zone "Blow Out"	Egypt Mountain Bike Exodus - Hans Ergt	Out There Helping the blind see in Ethiopia.	Lost	Skutumpah in Friesland	Next Wave Bud dismal see to save the world.	Out There Helping the blind see in Ethiopia.	Next Wave Bud dismal see to save the world.	Out There Helping the blind see in Ethiopia.	Next Wave Bud dismal see to save the world.	Out There Helping the blind see in Ethiopia.
35	MTV Boiling Points	Boiling Points	Boiling Points	Viva La Bam	Viva La Bam	Viva La Bam	Punk'd Mike Shro... (CC)	Punk'd Mike Shro... (CC)	Punk'd Mike Shro... (CC)	Punk'd Mike Shro... (CC)	Punk'd Mike Shro... (CC)	Punk'd Mike Shro... (CC)
36	NICK SpongeBob SquairPants (CC)	Rugrats Angelica meets Santa girl (CC)	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp

## JAPAN TV

Morning

7:30 Disney (12)

Afternoon

5:50 News (6)

Evening

7:20 NHK News (1)

9:00 Football Mutual (4)

10:00 News (1)

12:00 U.S. Movie (1999): Inferno: Core  
Moon (8)

2:45 CBS Documentary (6)

2:50 U.S. Movie (1977): Freaky Friday  
(150/10)3:10 U.S. Movie (1997): Scandal  
(150/12)3:35 Soccer: Toyota Cup Preview (E-  
uropean/South American) - FC  
Porto vs. CD Once Caldas (4)

## JAPAN TV-B511

Morning

9:30 Aerobics

10:00 Classical Music: NHK Sympho-  
ny Orchestra Concert

Afternoon

3:45 Grand Gourmet: France

Evening

7:20 NHK News

12:30 Classical Music: Verbier Music  
Festival (9)

JAPAN TV-B57

Morning

6:15 World News

7:15 World News

8:15 World News

9:15 World News Hour

10:10 BS World Documentary: Global  
Catastroph (3): Damaged Ecosys-  
tems (9)

11:05 CNN News

12:15 ABC News

12:35 PGA Tour Golf Lesson (4)

2:15 PBS NewsHour

3:15 CNN News

4:15 CNN News Hour

5:15 Asian News

Evening

6:15 CNN News

7:15 News Today: Asia

8:15 News Today: World

9:15 Economic News

10:10 World Reports

11:15 Figure Skating GP Series in Rus-  
sian Pairs12:10 Figure Skating GP Series in Rus-  
sian Ice Dancing1:10 2004-05 Bicycle Track World  
Cup, 1st Round, Moscow

2:15 Asian News

3:15 World Amazing Sports

4:15 Asian News

5:10 World News Hour

## WOWOW

Afternoon

12:00 TV Series: Third Watch (9)

1:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Dragonfly  
(150)2:00 U.S. Movie (2002): The Patriot  
(2-8)

Evening

12:05 TV Series: Friends the Final  
Season (1)1:30 Stephen King's Kingdom Hospital  
by Honda1:55 French-Italian-U.S. Movie  
(1968): Grand (2/8)2:00 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Russia  
vs. Portugal (9)

2:30 Pure Music

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2:30 Pure Music

12:05 TV Series: Friends the Final  
Season (1)



## OPINION

## A pat-down of TSA procedures is in order

BY RON MOORE

Recent news coverage regarding the new pat-down procedure used by passenger screeners of the Transportation Security Administration focuses on two primary issues: the embarrassment of passengers who feel uncomfortable going through the procedure in public and reports of screeners performing the procedure inconsistently. I am a federal security screener at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, and I face the frustrations experienced by the traveling public daily.

But the media reports leave out one important element: training.

It's not surprising that travelers face apparently inconsistent searches by passenger screeners when you consider the TSA's negligence in complying with the congressional mandate that screeners receive three hours of training each week.

We are subjected to recertification testing and screeners are dismissed if they fail a computer test on TSA policies. We also are subjected to testing on pat-downs by Lockheed Martin Corp. workers as a condition of keeping our jobs. But it seems that the only time training is taken seriously is before this testing.

Before each shift, screeners attend a briefing, which goes down in the books as training time. In my case, on C Pier at BWI, 25 to 30 screeners attend a briefing in a room that measures 12 by 14 feet, most are standing and at least 10 of us have to listen from outside the door. Many trainers seem unprepared for questions and appear to have no training experience. Some are downright belligerent. Recently, when a screener complained that a new procedure for detecting

trace amounts of explosives put him at risk, he was told that he took the job knowing it involved risks and that if we didn't follow each procedure, we could be terminated without notice. Eventually, the trainer burst into tears as screeners' continued questioning.

That is an extreme case, though. Typically, we are told that trainers are simply reading the briefing materials when they answer our questions, indicating to me they don't understand the information themselves.

The TSA will not allow screeners time off from their checkpoints for training because many airports are severely understaffed. The agency did not plan properly for the loss, a little over a year ago, of nearly half its screening work force to the task of inspecting checked baggage. Moreover, although our federal security director recently was awarded a \$20,000 bonus, the TSA apparently lost its training rooms at BWI because it was unable to pay rent on them.

The new personnel system has caused an attrition rate of more than 20 percent this year, according to sources inside the agency. Who would want a job in which you are told you have to be perfect every time or people may die? Who would want a job in which passengers can be belligerent and, at times, may physically assault screeners, while management appears to be primarily concerned with passengers' customer service experience? We are not covered by most laws that protect the federal work force.

We are not permitted collective bargaining rights, although the Transportation Security Administration is officially neutral on private screeners having such rights. This leaves screeners vulnerable to cronyism, favoritism and arbitrary disciplinary actions — just the sort of abuse the civil service system was created to prevent. Incredibly, the



TSA's parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security, is considering a similar personnel system.

The problem is not a lack of technology. ... The problem is not a federalized work force.

The problem is the personnel system. President Bush opposed the creation of the TSA until a provision was written into the law creating an experimental "merit"-based performance system. I am not aware of any screener who has received a merit raise in the agency's brief history.

It is time for Congress to step up and take its oversight role seriously. A full investigation

of the new personnel system should be conducted. Screeners should be permitted to provide testimony without fear of retribution. Are they receiving adequate training? Is the new personnel system meeting the expectations of Congress?

The next time you see that a pat-down is intrusive or that a screener seems frustrated or even unprofessional, let the supervisor know. But also, let Congress know that it is time to provide real oversight.

Ron Moore is a federal security screener working at Baltimore-Washington International Airport in Linthicum, Md., and president of Local 1 of the American Federation of Government Employees. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

## Military service deserves a position of privilege

The Philadelphia-based Foreign Policy Research Institute held a conference Monday on the future of reserve military forces. The site was the Union League club.

Jack Kelly



"The classic French Renaissance-style League House, which occupies an entire city block in the center of Philadelphia's commerce and cultural district, is still in the National Historic Register," says the League's Web site. Being inside the club reminded me of how much America's elite has degenerated.

The Union League was founded in 1862 to support the policies of President Lincoln. On the walls are portraits of prominent Philadelphians who gave their lives fighting for the Union. There are also plaques of members who died fighting in World Wars I and II. You can find similar plaques at Ivy League colleges.

I saw no plaque honoring Union League members who died fighting in Vietnam and subsequent conflicts. Nor, I dare say, are there such monuments at Harvard or Yale.

For much of our history, those who have benefited most from living in America felt a special obligation to keep her safe and free. But the most privileged among us are now the Americans least likely to serve, and least likely to express gratitude to those who do.

This has long been a burr under the saddle of one of the presenters at the FRI conference, Northwestern University professor Charles Moskowitz, America's most prominent military sociologist. Charlie was drafted into

the Army in the late 1950s, benefited from the experience, and thinks others of America's "best and brightest" would as well.

Moskowitz would love the draft reinstated, but recognizes that this is not going to happen. So he's touting a 15-month enlistment option for the armed forces that would be appealing to college students. In exchange for their service, volunteers would receive generous education benefits or repayment of outstanding student loans.

I think he's on the right track. My draft number was 363. I'd have gone after women and children. But I dropped out of law school to join the Marines as a private. I had a bunch of reasons — good, bad and indifferent — for doing so. But I was doing something my parents and my classmates regarded as insane.

What pushed me over the edge was the

two-year enlistment option ... and the GI Bill. I wouldn't have joined if I had to sign up for four years or more, or if I didn't have the rationalization that I could always finish law school on the GI Bill.

As it turned out, I loved the Corps. It was the best experience of my life. I spent 14 years in the Marine and Army reserves.

We don't need to compel the service of the elite to have an outstanding military. But we ought to encourage it. Moskowitz' plan for a 15-month enlistment would work for military occupation specialties such as military police and infantry where extensive training is not required, if it were coupled with four years of obligated service in a drilling reserve unit. Reserve service is a wonderful part-time job for college students.

Moskowitz' plan could be advanced by terminating what he calls "the GI Bill without the

GI." The government currently gives low-interest loans and, sometimes, grants to college students in exchange for, well, nothing. The government should provide benefits only in return for service.

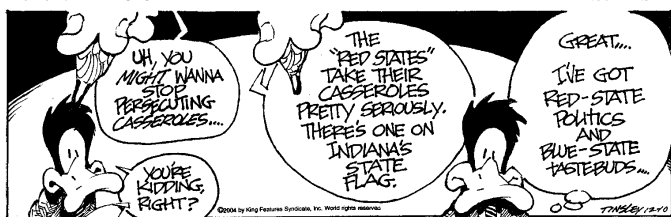
This is a sensible reform, but it wouldn't have much impact on the most privileged.

In Robert Heinlein's novel "Starship Troopers," only veterans could vote. That goes too far. But suppose we made it a requirement for holding federal elective office that candidates for the House and Senate must have an honorable discharge from the U.S. armed forces? Those who are unwilling to serve should not be permitted to lead.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## Gay policy rethought

**UT** WEST JORDAN — A principal who wants gay couples to get permission slips from their parents before they can attend school dances promised to re-evaluate the policy after protesters held four days of protests.

Copper Hills High School Principal Tom Worton issued the policy last month but agreed to revisit it. He said he saw the policy as a way to alert the parents to the dangers their children might face.

Worton said the policy stemmed from students' concerns about potential harassment.

Worton said he will make a decision on the policy in time for the prom.

## Fatal mining accident

**NV** ELY — Two men doing maintenance work on the shovel of a large excavator were killed when the shovel's lid fell and crushed them at an open-pit copper mine near this remote east-central Nevada town.

The owner of the Robinson Mine, Quadra Mining Ltd., and the workers' employer, Washington Group International, released no further details. The victims' names were not released.

"This is a close-knit community and something like this takes the heart out of everybody," said Martin Sorenson, chief of the Ruth Volunter Fire Department.

The accident is under investigation by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration.

## Taser death

**LA** METAIRIE — A man shot twice with a stun gun died, a day after he was pulled over for driving erratically, officials said.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman John Fortunato said Patrick Fleming died at a hospital. Officers had used a Taser stun gun on him twice when he fought with them — once after the traffic stop and then later at the jail.

Fortunato said Fleming, 35, was hospitalized after officers zapped him a second time and his breathing became labored.

A records check found that Fleming was wanted on a charge of criminal neglect of family. Fleming also had a history of resisting arrest and arrests for possession of cocaine leaves, crack cocaine and marijuana.

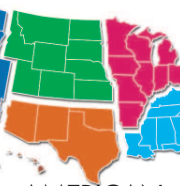
## Mandatory history?

**AK** ANCHORAGE — The state Board of Education will decide this week whether to require high school students to take a course in Alaska history before graduating. The Anchorage School District already requires its students take a state history course, while other districts offer some form of the class as an elective.

## Teacher charged

**MI** SOUTH HAVEN — A teacher and a 14-year-old former female student whom she is accused of sexually assaulting participated in witchcraft together and even "wed" in a pagan ritual, police said.

Elizabeth Mikosovic, 36, a teacher at South Haven's Baseline Middle School, was arraigned on a



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

charge of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

If convicted, Mikosovic faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Mikosovic, a seventh-grade language arts teacher, lives with another woman and their adopted son, authorities said. She was placed on leave from her job.

## New town plan

**AZ** CASA GRANDE — A citizens group is proposing creation of Chisholm, a new city that would include hundreds of square miles of now-unincorporated areas of western Pinal County. Supporters say the new city is needed to help regulate and plan for growth as new housing developments are built, many for people working in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

## No more arguing

**NJ** TRENTON — Lawyers and federal judges in New Jersey are preparing to argue over new rules that would largely outlaw arguing.

The rules would apply to civil cases, where some judges of the U.S. District Court of New Jersey think the verbal exchanges are a waste of time.

If the changes are adopted, judges would not schedule argument days to debate motions, and the word "argument" could even be de-



## Here fishy, fishy

Mitch Simpson, a fisheries biologist with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, hoists a salmon out of the Vezie Dam salmon trap on the Penobscot River.

leted from the rules. Instead, lawyers would be required to have a hearing request accepted by a judge.

Lawyers say it would set a perilous precedent. All district judges will vote on the rules changes, with a majority needed for ratification. A vote has not yet been scheduled.

## Plane's water landing

**FL** AVENTURA — The crew of a decades-old cargo plane put the aircraft down in a lake in a Miami suburb after it developed engine trouble, avoiding high-rise buildings in the densely populated area, then were rescued from the floating fuselage.

The Miami Air Lease plane — with the misspelled message "Elect George W. Bush" running the length of the fuselage — had trouble with one of its two engines shortly after takeoff, said company officer manager Alina Nodarse.

The pilots tried to return the Convair CV-340 to the Opa-locka airport about seven miles away but couldn't make it and splashed down in Maule Lake, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Chris White.

Crews surrounded the plane with an inflatable dote to contain any leaking oil. Trapped air kept the plane afloat and emergency crews planned to use air bags for additional buoyancy.

## Flu shot 'fund-raiser'

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — A woman who allegedly sold flu shots then fled when her credentials were questioned was giving people the real vaccine, and was trying to raise money for her daughter's school fund-raiser, her ex-husband said.

Michelle Lynn Torgerson, 33, was arrested on suspicion of theft and drug possession, said police Capt. Rich Stanek.

Chad Torgerson told the St. Paul Pioneer Press that faculty and students at Augsburg College in Minneapolis paid his ex-wife \$20 each for flu shots. He said she used the proceeds for an American Heart Association fund-raising drive at their 9-year-old daughter's school.

## Repair shop explodes

**WV** MATTHIAS — A natural gas line to an automobile repair shop exploded, leveling the building, shattering windows for miles and sending as many as five people to hospitals.

No deaths were reported. The identities and conditions of the injured were unavailable. Although officials don't know what caused the explosion, they said a gas line feeding the shop had been leaking.

Part of State Route 259 remained closed and several hundred residents who live within a one-mile radius of the shop remained evacuated the next day, said Paul Lewis, Hardy County's emergency services director.

Temporary shelters were set up at the northeast community's high school and middle school. Telephone service to the area was knocked out by the blast.

"It was a pretty wicked explosion," said Thomas VanMeter, who had finished making a delivery to the auto shop moments before the blast. "There had been a gun shop upstairs over the garage, and I could hear the bullets going off."



## Scare tactics

Curtis Sharp, 8, tries to scare a duck into the water at a park in Lubbock, Texas.



## Move those feet

From left to right, Brenner Fontenille, Craig Martin and Solon Spruce perform during the Iroquois Social Dance Participatory Program at the Native American Winter Festival in Brighton, N.Y.



## Baby Claus

Four-month-old Monae Fickens, dressed in a toddler Santa suit, is held by her mother, Ashia Frasier, as Tony "The Peanut Man" Wright sings a song to sell peanuts during the 24th annual Charleston Christmas Parade in Charleston, S.C.





**Woman overboard!** Kristin McEnroe, 13, of Duluth, Minn., leaps off the plank during the National Walk-the-Plank Championship staged in Key West, Fla. The event was the last in a 10-day Pirates in Paradise festival that also included a sea battle featuring Key West's historic tall ships, buccaneers' living history encampments and the re-enactment of an 18th-century pirate trial.



**Pampered pooches** Jean Jameson grooms Lexy, a Shih Tzu owned by Eileen Nichols of Mahwah, N.J., during The Bay Colony Cluster Dog Show in Boston, as another Shih Tzu named Callie, owned by Jennifer Miller of Wenonah, N.J., looks on at left.



**Yay, pretty colors**

Sitting on the roof of a Battle Creek restaurant, Sponge Bob Squarepants seems excited watching balloons fly over during the 6th annual Holiday Balloonfest in Battle Creek, Mich.



**Fake explosion a blast to see** Congress Street in Tucson, Ariz., is set ablaze with an explosion during the filming of Stephen King's miniseries "Desperation" as hundreds gather to watch and feel the blast.

## Jury spares man's life

**KS** KANSAS CITY — A jury recommended a life sentence for a man convicted of killing five people in retaliation for the robbery and beating of his mother, sparing him the death penalty.

The same jury convicted Darrell Stallings two weeks before on five counts of capital murder and other charges in the June 2002 shooting rampage. Prosecutors said none of the victims was involved in the attack on Stallings' mother.

Stallings, 34, who is scheduled for sentencing in January, apologized to the families of each victim.

"I am truly sorrowful for the pain and related tribulations I have caused you all," he said. He said he had no excuses for the crimes, but was confused and delusional because of the attack on his mother two months earlier.

Another man, Errik Harris, 28, is also charged in the deaths, but his trial date has not been set.

## Costco theft charges

**NH** NASHUA — An 18-year-old Massachusetts man faces felony theft charges for allegedly emptying several large cereal boxes at a Costco, filling the boxes with electronic equipment and paying the clerk only for the cereal.

Nashua police arrested Christopher Boozie of Dracut after he and a juvenile were detained by store security.

Police said Boozie left the store with a digital camera, GPS system and a computer hard drive worth \$800 inside the resealed cereal boxes.

## School renovations

**VA** EMPORIA — A group of Emporia citizens has raised about \$20,000 to renovate a former segregated school for blacks. Citizens United to Preserve the Greenville Training School has received approval of preliminary plans for the school. The group is working with a class of architecture students from the University of Virginia. It hopes the county will donate the school and five acres around it.

## Bladder patrol

**PA** PITTSBURGH — Officers Matt Turko and Tom Weger are on Pittsburgh's bladder beat.

Since November 2003, Turko and Weger have patrolled the city's South Side, one of the country's oldest Victorian-era shopping districts in the country by day — but one of the city's best places to drink at night. They bust bladder-heavy revelers looking for relief in alleys, the sides of houses and in dark corners.

Turko and Weger have handed out more than 220 citations for public indecency. Emptying your bladder in the wrong place can also empty your wallet. Each ticket comes with a \$300 fine.

## Chancellor resigns

**MO** KANSAS CITY — The chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City resigned after clashing with faculty over such issues as a \$500,000 consulting fee she paid to a friend.

Martha Gilliland, 60, said she was stepping down so the school

can "move forward and achieve great progress without distraction." She will keep her tenured position as a professor in the university's school of engineering.

Last month, faculty groups in arts and sciences, law, business and biology cast no-confidence votes in Gilliland, who took the post four years ago.

## D.C. mayor heads league

**DC** WASHINGTON — Washington Mayor Anthony Williams won election as president of the National League of Cities, becoming the first D.C. mayor to assume the top post in a national organization of municipal officials.

The league counts more than 18,000 cities and towns among its members and lobbies for their interests on Capitol Hill and throughout the federal government.

At his swearing-in, Williams promised to pursue "an advocacy agenda" focused on homeland security, education, public safety and affordable housing.

## Concerns cancel tour

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — The Mormon Tabernacle Choir has canceled its planned tour of northern Europe next year because of concerns about terrorism, and the choir will instead tour the Northwest.

The 360-voice choir was scheduled to make a summer tour by ship of Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

However, Gordon B. Hinckley, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, decided the trip would make the group an easy target for terrorists.

The tour was first changed to England, Scotland and Wales, with a stopover in Paris. But that, too, was deemed too dangerous and now the choir will visit cities in northern California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Idaho.

## Living at work

**OR** HAILEY — Some workers seem to live at the office, but the principal at Central Linn High School really does.

Michael Bremont, 31, routinely spends 80 hours a week on the job, arriving well before school starts each morning and leaving long after the final bell.

Frustrated by how little he was seeing his family, Bremont approached his district superintendent last year with an unusual request. He wanted to live in an unused building on campus.

District officials loved the idea and spent \$2,000 renovating the place. Bremont pays \$500 a month in rent, plus his electricity costs, so the district has made back what it spent.

"It's been really wonderful," he said.

## Union strike averted

**CT** HARTFORD — Members of the machinists' union at jet-engine maker Pratt & Whitney voted overwhelmingly against going on strike. Under the negotiating rules, rejection of a strike means the latest three-year contract proposal takes effect. It includes a 3.5 percent raise in the first year and 3 percent raises in the second and third years as well as a \$1,500 signing bonus per worker.

Stories and photos from wire services

# Horoscope

This morning, the moon joins the sun's party in Sagittarius, and energies line up to prepare for tomorrow's compelling new moon. Getting the most of this powerful talent requires introspection and personal time. Figure out the area in your life you'd most like to improve, and be ready to take your first action to that end tomorrow.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(December 10)**, You'll succeed where others have failed. In your quest to enter new territories this year, leap into a romance this month—you're especially compatible with Libra and Taurus. Couples connect on a joint mission that isn't easy, but the gold at the end is well worth the adventure. Education gives you a new way to make money this spring.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**, You are moving from a grandiose vision to the implementation of specific objectives. Roll up your sleeves—you're in for some fun! Beware of someone who gives a compliment and asks for a favor at the same time.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**, Maybe your ambitions are veering away from your original idea, but who's to say your new aims won't be more fun to accomplish anyhow? Be willing to see yourself as someone with talents the world has yet to discover.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21)**, If you've got the network to meet, right people happen, they happen all right. So instead of focusing on doing everything yourself, get out there and do what you do best—schmooze! Be sure to collect contact information on new people.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)**, Your friends are your wealth. You may think you don't have time to make any more, but the stars disagree and send prospects your way. Your habit of giving people more than they expect pays off big time.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**, You are cheeky, experimental, zany to the extreme. You'll either be lauded as a

genius or wind up in somebody's "Fashion Don't" file. Either way, your attitude attracts the best and the brightest to you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**, Get rid of the worn-out things in your life—clothes, household items and emotional baggage.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)**, You're anything but sentimental now, so it's the ideal day to purge. Just make sure the stuff is nowhere you can go retrieve it tomorrow.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)**, Calls come from people who are in the know about the latest research, the way you're supposed to be doing your job, the technology you're not up on, but it's all a distraction. You've got a handle on things. Just concentrate.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)**, Your social status is on the rise, and so is your confidence. The nervous energy has left your body. Say something positive about someone behind his or her back. It will be obvious the praise is genuine.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**, You're in a time crunch. The only way to get it all done is to condense every encounter to its pure essence—no time for gossip or waiting! Do keep all appointments, though—there are hidden costs to not doing so.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**, Love is the theme. You're aware that life can be lived at many levels of consciousness. You feel freer to fly and dip into various mental states now that you are not so sure of your own security.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**, You're eager to make a deal, and the last thing you want to do is ask for the opinion of a disinterested party—but that's the thing that's going to help you the most. Making a decision from a feverishly excited state is too risky.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**, Your ESP tells you change is on its way. To keep your emotional balance, you detach. Part of you is getting ready to sever a tie, and the other part isn't sure if it's going to let you follow through. By Sunday, one side wins.

Creators Syndicate



Holiday Mathis

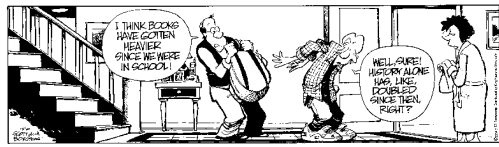
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



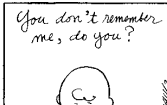
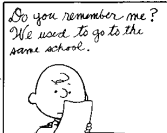
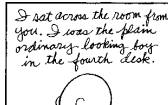
Better or Worse



Red and Rover



## Peanuts



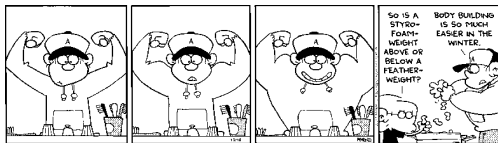
Red and Rover

Red and Rover

Red and Rover



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



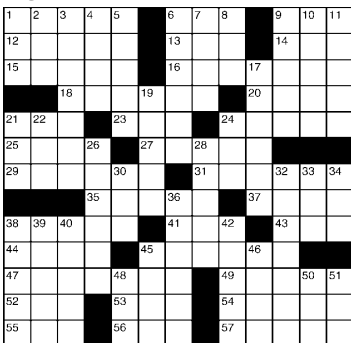
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Ready to rumble
- 6 Pinafore abbr.
- 9 Wrong (Pref.)
- 12 Schroeder's prop
- 13 Verily
- 14 Hostel
- 15 Rum recipe
- 16 "Evita" star
- 18 Gilligan's home
- 20 Bad aroma
- 21 Pompous sort
- 23 Zsa Zsa's sis
- 24 Torment
- 25 "Let's Make a Deal" option
- 27 Spritlike
- 29 Family namesake
- 31 Errand-running assistant
- 35 Delicious
- 37 Icicle's place
- 38 Opening night
- 41 BamBI's aunt
- 43 Drops on the grass
- 44 Corn lily
- 45 Snarl
- 47 Fill-in-the-blanks game
- 49 Hold the scepter
- 52 Bygone days, once
- 53 West of Hollywood
- 54 Goosebump-raising
- 55 Pigs' digs
- 56 Museum stuff
- 57 Wipe out

## Down

- 1 Suitable
- 2 "Flying Down to —"
- 3 Fourth President
- 4 Remnants
- 5 Holmes' creator
- 6 Choir book
- 7 Anthropologist
- 8 Blue
- 9 Clementine's dad was one
- 10 More central
- 11 Serpentine
- 12 Valencia, e.g.
- 19 States with conviction
- 21 N. modifier
- 22 Old French coin
- 24 Waste no time
- 26 Ceremony
- 28 Swashbuckling star
- 30 Bran source
- 32 Portuguese wine
- 33 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 34 Fresh
- 36 Wonderland service
- 38 They ain't worth a nickel
- 39 Praise to the skies
- 40 Hen
- 42 Match
- 45 Ski lift
- 46 Ogier's look
- 48 "— Yankee ..."
- 50 Joe's barracks mates?
- 51 Born

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 12-10 CRYPTOQUIP

ML SP K MUUCD OEYNC MR  
L QXD - W QDUUC DCK , M  
RXOOQRC PQX WQXEK RYP

M CYN RGXYDC SCYER.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU BELIEVE  
THAT A VERY POPULAR SOAP OPERA SHOULD  
BE DUBBED A HOT SERIAL?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S



















# No. 5 Cowboys beat No. 4 Orange in Jimmy V Classic

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Oklahoma State has a roster even a longtime coach like Eddie Sutton loves to have.

There are six seniors on the Cowboys, a team that reached the Final Four last season. Nothing makes a coach feel better than a roomful of seniors.

The upperclassmen played a big role in the fifth-ranked Cowboys' 74-60 victory over No. 4 Syracuse on Tuesday night in the Jimmy V Classic.

"The seniors did a great job when we broke the game open and got ahead," said Sutton, who picked up win No. 761. "The seniors played the way they should play. I didn't think we played as well as we can, but we played better in the second half. Every coach thrives on a veteran huddle, especially because we went to the Final Four last year."

Stephen Graham, Joey Graham and Ivan McFarlin, all seniors, each had 16 points for the Cowboys (6-0) and John Lucas and Daniel Bobik, two other members of that class, each hit a big three-pointer in the second half.

"They have six seniors. I don't think anybody has that kind of experience and they have a great coach," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "That was a tremendous, physical defensive battle."

## Men's Top 25 roundup

We played defensively as well as we can tonight," Stephen Graham had

two three-point plays as Oklahoma State pulled away from a 45-41 tie with 6:32 to play as the Orange (7-1) could not hit from the floor or the free-throw line.

"That second half, we probably played as well as we can play," Sutton said. "That first half, I told them they played like they had never been coached. That first half was one of the worst halves I've seen in a long, long time."

Bobik hit a three with 7 minutes left to give the Cowboys a 45-44 lead. Lucas then hit a three-pointer — his first field goal — to break that tie and start a 17-4 run that included Graham's two big plays.

Ivan McFarlin scored with 2:20 to go to cap the run and give Oklahoma State a 62-49 lead.

Gerry McNamara hit three threes in the closing 1:23 to get Syracuse within 66-60, but the Orange couldn't get any closer.

McFarlin had 12 rebounds as the Cowboys finished with a 46-33 advantage on the boards.

Josh Pace had 20 points, two off his career-high, for Syracuse, while McNamara had 18 and Hakim Warrick 13. Warrick, a career 64 percent free-throw shooter, was just 5-for-13 from the line and Syracuse was 7-for-22.



**Oklahoma State guard John Lucas, right, drives for a layup against Syracuse forward Hakim Warrick on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden in New York. Oklahoma State defeated Syracuse 74-60.**

reer 64 percent free-throw shooter, was just 5-for-13 from the line and Syracuse was 7-for-22.

"Offensively, we have to get some help for our three veterans who are playing really well," said Boeheim, whose viral tweet stayed at 683. "If we don't get some help, we're going to struggle against good teams and Oklahoma State is as good as anybody in the country."

Oklahoma State's physical man-to-man defense and Syracuse's

vaunted 2-3 zone lived up to their billings. Syracuse held a 22-21 halftime lead with neither team able to shoot better than 36 percent.

It didn't get much better for the offenses in the second half until Oklahoma State started to score in transition to break the game open.

"In the first half, we were a little too passive against the zone," McFarlin said. "In the second half, we ran the transition really well."

**No. 11 Pittsburgh 70, Memphis 51:** At New York, Carl Krauser scored all but two of his 17 points at the free-throw line for Pittsburgh in the first game at the Jimmy V Classic.

Chris Taft had 13 points and 10 rebounds for Pittsburgh, which opened with a 12-2 run and had its first 20-point lead at 30-10 with 9:04 left in the first half.

Rodney Carney led the Tigers (5-3) with 18 points.

**No. 14 Texas 86, North Texas 57:** At Austin, Texas, Brad Bruckman scored 18 points and blocked seven shots to lead the Longhorns (6-1).

Leonard Hopkins scored 13 to lead North Texas (3-3).

**No. 16 Washington 98, San Diego St. 69:** At Seattle, Nate Robinson scored 24 points and

Tre Simmons added a career-high 23 for the Huskies (6-1) off to their best start since 1997-98.

Marcus Slaughter had 21 points for San Diego State (4-2).

**No. 17 Iowa 76, N. Iowa 73:** At Iowa City, Iowa, Greg Brummer scored 23 points and the Hawkeyes (7-1) held off a late rally by Northern Iowa (3-2).

Jacobson scored 25 points for the Panthers.

**No. 18 Alabama 72, Alabama St. 54:** At Montgomery, Ala., Kennedy Winston scored 21 points and Chuck Davis had 18 points and nine rebounds for the Crimson Tide (7-0).

Reserve George Savage had 14 points to lead the Hornets (1-4).

**No. 24 Wisconsin 65, Wisconsin-Green Bay 55:** At Madison, Wis., Mike Wilkinson scored 18 points and Wisconsin (5-1) extended the longest home winning streak in Division I to 12 games.

Josh Lawrence and Javier Mendiburu each scored 10 points to lead Wisconsin-Green Bay (4-2).

**No. 25 Gonzaga 54, Washington St. 52:** At Pullman, Wash., Romp Turf scored 17 points for the Bulldogs (6-1).

Josh Akognon and Randy Green led Washington State (3-3) with 12 points each.

## Kadena replaces Foster as host of service hoop tourney in mid-January

Stars and Stripes

**KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa** — Martin Luther King Jr. weekend will see a Pacific-wide interservice basketball tournament after all. Kadena's 18th Services will host its second Kadena Basketball Classic tournament Jan. 14-17.

The Kadena Basketball Classic had been slated for March. But when troop deployments forced Marine Corps Community Services last month to scrub the Martin Luther King tournament, the Kadena tournament was moved to mid-January.

Informed that two off-island teams had made non-refundable airline reservations for a mid-January trip to Okinawa, MCSS contacted 18th Services sports officials and asked if Kadena could host a tournament.

"We'd love to help out the athletes," said Risper Fitness and Sports Center director Dawn Pierce, adding that 18th Services is getting "huge support" for varsity athletics, starting with Kadena's 18th Wing leadership.

"We want to capitalize on our ability to offer this to the community," Pierce said. "We want to keep basketball at the forefront. We can't let it slip through the cracks."

Because of the late notice and because Risper is undergoing renovations, the event will be limited to the first 10 men's teams to sign up, Pierce said.

The tournament is open to military base- and post-level teams throughout the Pacific. All players must be 18 or older. The entry fee is \$200; the entry deadline is Jan. 3.

Officials from 18th Services say they plan to stay in touch with MCSS to see if the Martin Luther King tournament will revive. If it doesn't, Pierce said, Kadena plans to keep the tournament and expand the field next year.

Call DSN 634-2207 or e-mail Firello White of Falcon Fitness Center at firello.white@kadena.af.mil or Pierce at dawn.pierce@kadena.af.mil for information on the tournament.

## Bryant surprised by Malone's intense reaction to comments

The Associated Press

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif.** — Kobe Bryant would love to have Karl Malone back with the Los Angeles Lakers, and believes comments he made in a recent radio interview were misunderstood.

Bryant also said Wednesday that he tried to call Malone "and square it all out."

Malone's agent, Dwight Manley, said Tuesday that his client had ruled out a return to the Lakers because of what Bryant said in the radio interview and what the agent called "recent personal attacks made in private."

Bryant said he was shocked by Malone's reaction.

"I meant nothing by it. It wasn't directed toward him," Bryant said Tuesday after the Lakers' shoot-around. "I'd love to have him back here, everybody would. If he wants to come back and play, the door's always open."

"This is the type of place he should enjoy playing. I'm happy to hear he's 100 percent. And in no way what I said was directed toward him or a personal attack. If he's felt some type of way about that, then I apologize."

But Bryant also said: "It is what it is, and I want to move on with the team we have here."

Manley said Malone was "furious" and "felt very disrespected" after hearing an account of what Bryant told NBA radio in an interview Monday.

Bryant told the radio station he didn't think that Malone, who un-

## NBA briefs

derwent surgery on his right knee last summer.

He would return to the Lakers, calling it "just intuition." Bryant also said the uncertainty wasn't fair to his teammates.

"I think he took what I said the wrong way," Bryant said Wednesday. "Maybe he didn't hear it, maybe he ran off with what somebody else was saying. If I felt like [Malone] was a distraction, I would have said it. I didn't say anything like that."

Bryant said KCBS-TV late Tuesday that he didn't "want to be anyone's distraction."

Bryant said his relationship with Malone has "always been cool."

"If Karl comes back, it will be a tremendous addition," Bryant said. "But if he doesn't, I'm fine rolling with the guys we have here. It's his decision if he wants to come back."

The 41-year-old Malone told the Lakers on Oct. 1 he wasn't ready to play. But he didn't rule out returning at some point this season or later.

Manley said Tuesday that Malone had fully recovered from his surgery and would address his future in the next month or so.

## Clippers' Brand suspended one game for shoving Okafor

**NEW YORK** — Elton Brand of the Los Angeles Clippers was suspended one game Tuesday by

the NBA for shoving Charlotte's Emeka Okafor during the fourth quarter of Monday night's Charlotte vs. Los Angeles game.

Brand wheeled and delivered a hard shove to Okafor's face and was immediately ejected. The foul was judged a category two flagrant foul.

Brand must sit out the Clippers' game Friday night against the Los Angeles Lakers.

## Cavaliers' Traylor out with broken finger

**CLEVELAND** — Cavaliers forward Robert Traylor will miss three to four weeks after breaking his left pinkie against the New Jersey Nets.

Traylor, a reserve averaging 5.1 points and 4.0 rebounds, was suspended from the injured list. Cleveland activated Scott Williams for Wednesday night's game against Chicago. Williams is averaging 2.2 points and 1.7 rebounds in 10 games.

## Nets sign top CBA scorer

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** — Forward Kaniel Dickens, the leading scorer in the CBA, was signed by the New Jersey Nets on Wednesday.

This Nets also waived forward Aweye Storey and placed center Jabari Smith on the injured list with a sprained left ankle.

Dickens was averaging 29.4 points and 9.6 rebounds with the Idaho Stampede. He was shooting a league-leading 57.1 percent from three-point range.



**WIN CASH!**

Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

# Bush urges MLB to take 'strong steps' on steroids

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush urged Major League Baseball on Wednesday to take "strong steps" to confront the use of steroids and other illegal performance-enhancing substances by players.

Bush spoke up on the issue — which he also noted in his State of the Union address in January — as players and league management worked to agree on tougher testing for steroids. Drug use "diminishes the integrity of sports," Bush's spokesman said.

"The president believes it's im-

portant for Major League Baseball management and the player's union to act by taking strong steps to address the problem," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. "Professional baseball players are people our children look up to. Players who use drugs undermine the efforts of parents and coaches to send the right message to our children."

McClellan did not spell out what would constitute "strong steps" by the league. Bush, a former managing partner of the Texas Rangers, is not involved in negotiations between players and baseball management, limiting his role to public remarks through his spokesman.

But Bush has relied upon Roland Betts, another former partner in the Rangers, to communicate his thoughts to baseball, McClellan said.

In May or June, Betts conveyed Bush's conviction that the major leagues need "a tough steroids testing policy," McClellan said.

On Tuesday, baseball players told their lawyers to work toward a new agreement with owners on that policy.

After negotiations with management were outlined to the executive board of the players' association, union head Donald Fehr said the board "authorized us to at-

tempt to conclude an agreement consistent with those discussions."

Fehr defended the current program, saying it would work if "it had been given time."

Each player was tested once in 2004 during a period between the start of spring training and the end of the regular season.

In 2003, anonymous tests were conducted as a survey, and 5 to 7 percent came back positive.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig repeatedly has called for more frequent testing and harsher penalties for steroid use, stepping up the intensity following reports of grand jury testimony by

slugger Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield.

Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer, said that discussions toward a new agreement had advanced but the sides were still apart. Management expects talks to resume next week.

Bush praised the efforts of Arizona Sen. John McCain, who has threatened to propose federal legislation that would override the drug-testing provisions in baseball's collective bargaining agreement.

In his State of the Union address, Bush called for U.S. sports leagues to adopt tougher anti-doping policies and for athletes to set a better example for youngsters.

## Phillies boost rotation, add Lieber for three years, \$21M

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Right-hander Jon Lieber agreed to a \$21-million, three-year contract with the Philadelphia Phillies on Wednesday, rounding out a revamped starting rotation.

Lieber spent last season with the New York Yankees, going 14-8 with a 4.33 ERA in 27 starts. He was 1-1 with a 3.43 ERA in three playoff starts for the Yankees, who wasted a 3-0 lead in the AL championship series against Boston.

Lieber gets a \$1 million signing bonus and will earn \$5.25 million in 2005, \$7.25 million in 2006 and \$7.5 million in 2007.

Lieber, who turns 35 in April, joins a rotation that subtracted Eric Milton from the Kevin Millwood. Neither free agent was offered arbitration by the Phillies before Tuesday's midnight deadline, meaning their brief careers in Philadelphia are over.

A 20-game winner with the Cubs in 2001, Lieber was just 6-8 the following year and missed the entire 2003 season

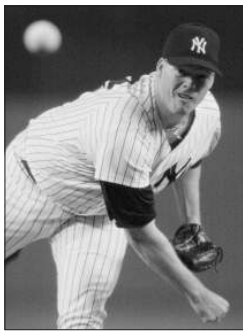
after undergoing ligament-replacement surgery on his right elbow.

He sat out the first month of last season with a strained right groin, but returned to become a valuable member of New York's injury-depleted staff. He was 5-0 with a 3.12 ERA in his final six starts and won seven of his last eight decisions.

Lieber joins former All-Stars Randy Wolf and Vicente Padilla, Brett Myers and Corey Lidle in the Phillies' rotation.

Lieber began his career with Pittsburgh in 1994, pitched four seasons with the Cubs and one year with the Yankees. He's 100-91 with a 4.20 ERA in 10 seasons. Lieber's best year was in 2001 when he went 20-5 with a 3.80 ERA for Chicago. He's won at least 10 games four other times.

The Phillies, preseason favorites to win the NL East last year, had a disappointing season, going 86-76. The first manager Larry Bowa, replacing him last month with former Indians manager Charlie Manuel.



John Lieber, 14-8 with a 4.33 ERA last season for the Yankees, became a free agent when New York declined an \$8 million option for 2005.

## Left-hander Leiter returns to Marlins

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Al Leiter signed a one-year contract with the Florida Marlins on Wednesday, leaving the New York Mets and returning to the team he helped pitch to the 1997 World Series title.

The 39-year-old left-hander had spent seven years with the Mets, going 10-8 with a 3.21 ERA last season. The Mets did not offer him salary arbitration before Tuesday's deadline, allowing the Marlins to sign him without giving up draft choice.

"This is a terrific reunion of Al and this franchise, and this is a big day for the Florida Marlins and South Florida," Marlins General Manager Larry Beinfest said.

Leiter played for Florida in 1996 and 1997. He pitched the team's first no-hitter in 1996 and was traded to the Mets when the Marlins purged their payroll after the World Series season. He also pitched in the 2001 World Series, in which the Mets lost to the New York Yankees.

He joins a rotation that features right-handers Josh Beckett and J.A. Burnett, plus left-hander Dontrelle Willis.

## Radke, Garciparra, Morris opt not to change uniforms

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nomar Garciaparra stayed with the Chicago Cubs, Brad Radke remained with Minnesota and the New York Yankees looked ahead to deals with pitcher Jaret Wright and second baseman Tony Womack as the first big deadline passed for teams and free agents.

On a day when 13 free agents agreed to contracts, St. Louis kept pitchers Matt Morris and Cal Eldred, along with outfielder John Mabry on Tuesday.

For one player was offered arbitration by the midnight deadline, up from 25 last year. Carlos Beltran and Roger Clemens (Houston), Adrian Beltre (Los Angeles) and Carl Pavano (Florida) were among those given arbitration offers; they have until Dec. 19 to accept and can re-sign with their former teams through Jan. 8.

Among those not offered arbitration were third baseman Troy Glaus, the 2002 World Series MVP (Anaheim); first baseman Carlos Delgado (Toronto); outfielder Steve Finley (Los Ange-

les); outfielder Magglio Ordonez (Chicago White Sox) and pitchers Eric Milton and Kevin Millwood (Philadelphia).

Garciparra agreed to an \$8 million, two-year contract to remain with the Cubs, the team that acquired him from the Red Sox at the end of July. If he stays healthy, he could make up to \$11 million with Chicago.

"I really loved playing there. I really loved the experience I had in the short time I was there," he said. "I just felt Chicago is the best place for me. I'm looking forward to going out there and, hopefully, turning this into a long-term relationship."

Radke got an \$18 million, two-year deal from the Twins. He went 11-8 with a 3.48 ERA in 219 1/3 innings last season, teaming with AL Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana to form an outstanding duo at the top of Minnesota's rotation.

"It kind of turned out for the best for both sides," Radke said. "It feels good. You know the Twins always said that I was their top priority to sign this year and I feel the same way. I feel the

### Baseball free agent roundup

Twins were my first priority, and I'm just glad it got done."

St. Louis completed a trio of deals just before the midnight deadline. Morris, a 22-game winner in 2001 but 15-10 with a 4.72 ERA last season, got a \$2.5 million, one-year contract and the chance to earn \$4.5 million more in performance bonuses. Mabry (\$2.5 million) and Eldred (\$600,000) also got one-year deals.

Wright, who will turn 29 on Dec. 29, went 15-8 with a 3.28 ERA in a big comeback season with the Atlanta Braves this year, but lost both his starts in the playoffs.

New York offered salary arbitration to Orlando Hernandez before Tuesday's midnight deadline, giving the team until Jan. 8 to re-sign a key member of last season's rotation. Another part of that rotation, Jon Lieber, was offered arbitration but signed with Philadelphia on Wednesday.

The Yankees also reached a preliminary agreement with

Womack on a \$4 million, two-year contract, giving New York a starting second baseman to replace Miguel Cairo.

While no announcements were made, both Yankees players were confirmed by a baseball official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Womack's agreement was subject to him passing a physical. After undergoing elbow surgery before last season, the speedy leadoff hitter helped the Cardinals reach the World Series, batting .307 with 26 stolen bases and 91 runs.

In addition to Garciparra, Chicago agreed to a \$2.5 million, one-year contract with second baseman Todd Walker, and a \$2.7 million, two-year contract with catcher Henry Blanco.

Philadelphia agreed to a \$5.25 million, two-year deal with left-hander Rhael Cormier, Seattle settled on a \$1.75 million, one-year contract with catcher Dan Wilson, the New York Mets held on to right-hander Mike D. Jean for \$1.15 million and Baltimore kept outfielder B.J. Surhoff for \$1.1 million.

Houston agreed to two deals, an \$800,000, one-year contract with outfielder Orlando Palmeiro and a minor league contract with right-hander Russ Springer. Mets' right-hander Kevin Appier launched another comeback bid, agreeing to a minor league contract with the Kansas City Royals.

Boston offered arbitration to Martinez, Derek Lowe and Jason Varitek along with shortstop Orlando Cabrera, pitchers Pedro Astacio and Mike Myers, infielder Pedro Reese and first baseman David McKay.

"None of them were offered arbitration with the understanding they won't accept arbitration," Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein said. "That simply extends our window. Sometimes making good decisions takes time."

Several signings were announced early Wednesday.

Pitcher Dustin Hermanson, the Giants' closer in 2004, agreed on a two-year, \$5.5 million contract with the White Sox. Six-time All-Star catcher Sandy Alomar was also picked up by the White Sox last year, signing a \$550,000 contract with Texas to be a part-time player.



# Urban renewal under way at Florida

## After whirlwind weekend, Meyer arrives in Gainesville ready to work

By MARK LONG  
The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — When Urban Meyer moved from Notre Dame to Bowling Green to Utah in five years, he explained the relocations to his three children by telling them he was like a mountain climber trying to get to the top.

After accepting the Florida job last week, his 6-year-old son simply asked, "Daddy, are you there yet?"

Meyer smiled and responded, "Yes, this is the top."

Few would disagree. The former Utah coach was formally introduced at Florida on Tuesday, getting a campus tour and meeting his new team for the first time since agreeing to a seven-year, \$14 million contract.

He said all the right things, too. He talked about winning championships, praised coach Steve Spurrier and said he has no aspirations to coach in the NFL. He even took shots at Florida State



Florida's new head football coach Urban Meyer speaks to the media Tuesday in Gainesville, Fla.

and Tennessee, recalling famed Spurrier lines about "Free Shoes University" and "You can't spell Citrus without UT."

"This is a place you can put

your feet down hopefully for a long time," he said.

Although Meyer will coach the fifth-ranked Utes against No. 19 Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl, he already has started working for the Gators. He called recruits over the weekend and began what will be a difficult month of transition from one program to the other.

He spent the weekend celebrating his team's Bowl Championship Series berth, had dinner with Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley on Monday and flew to Gainesville on a private jet with his wife and three children Tuesday morning.

Then he got a complete tour, capped by a visit to Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

His eyes widened as he walked into "The Swamp" and noticed references to the six Southeastern Conference titles, the two Heisman Trophy winners and the 1996 national championship. He also saw an altered photo of himself — wearing an orange and

blue Gators jacket — on both scoreboards along with a welcome message.

He already knew expectations would be high, but his trip into the recently renovated stadium made it a reality.

"Is it the toughest conference in the country? Absolutely. Is it one of the toughest schedules in the country? Absolutely. Can we recruit the best student-athletes in the country? Absolutely. It's a great challenge and it is different."

"To stand here and say that we had some great success at Bowling Green and some great success at Utah, we know we have to work that much harder to have great success here."

The Gators fired coach Ron Zook in October after a 20-13 record in two-plus seasons, several close losses, some notable late collapses and a heated encounter with members of a campus fraternity.

He also never satisfied fans who became accustomed to Spurrier's innovative system that was fun to watch and tough to stop.

## Utah promotes Whittingham to head coach

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah defensive coordinator Kyle Whittingham was hired as the school's football coach to replace Urban Meyer.

Whittingham rejected an offer from rival BYU to take the Utes' job. He was to be introduced at a news conference Wednesday. Utah sports information director Liz Abel said.

Whittingham will replace Meyer as Utah's coach following the Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl. Meyer was introduced Tuesday as the new coach at Florida.

Whittingham was to have led the Utes' Tuesday practice, but didn't attend to consider the offers from the two schools.

Whittingham will have to start building his own staff immediately. Offensive coordinator Mike Sanford was hired Monday to coach UNLV, and both he and Meyer could take any number of assistant coaches with them.

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## Louisville's Petrino planning to stay put

The Associated Press

Louisville football coach Bobby Petrino said Tuesday he plans to stay with the Cardinals, taking himself off the market for teams with coaching vacancies.

"I want to make it clear that I'm not interested in any other coaching jobs, and am happy at the University of Louisville," Petrino said in a statement issued by the school.

The statement came after Mississippi athletic director Pete Boone said that Petrino's agent had contacted him about that school's coaching vacancy. Boone said the agent later called back to say the coach was no longer interested.

Petrino guided the Cardinals to a 10-1 record, a Conference USA championship this season and a No. 7 ranking, the highest in the school's history. His two-year mark at Louisville is 19-5.

Petrino was selected C-USA Coach of the Year on Wednesday. The Cardinals will play in the Liberty Bowl on Dec. 31 against Boise State.

### Wie to play PGA event again

HONOLULU — Michelle Wie will make another appearance on the PGA Tour after accepting a sponsor's exemption Tuesday night to play next month in the Sony Open.

The exemption was expected, especially after Wie came within one shot of making the cut in the Sony Open last year.

"This is really great," Wie said in a telephone interview. "I had such a great experience last year. Hopefully I'll do a lot better. My goal is to be in the top 20."

Wie was 14 last January when she shot a 68 in the second round,

the lowest score ever by a female competing exclusively against men. She finished at even-par 140 at Waialea Country Club.

### Sports briefs

Waialea Country Club.

### Armstrong won't decide until May about Tour de France

AUSTIN, Texas — Lance Armstrong will decide in May whether he will race in this summer's Tour de France, which he has won the past six years.

He said in Wednesday's Austin American-Statesman he will ride for another two years, but he's still unsure where to focus his 2005 schedule — the European spring classics or Tour de France.

Armstrong will leave his home in Austin in mid-March and spend six weeks in Europe racing. When he returns home in May, he'll decide whether he'll try for a seventh Tour de France in 2005 or 2006.

Armstrong's Tour de France victories are a record, but he has been criticized for bypassing other popular races to focus on training for cycling's biggest event. The races he did ride were picked specifically to help him train for France.

### Tyson training for comeback

LAS VEGAS — Mike Tyson wants everyone to know he's alive and well.

The former heavyweight champion is beginning to train for a fight in March, his first since being knocked out by Danny Williams in July. Tyson, 38, issued a statement Tuesday saying he also denied published reports that he is depressed and using cocaine.

# Utah's Smith goes from obscurity to Heisman hopeful

BY DOUG ALDEN  
The Associated Press

**SALT LAKE CITY** — So much has changed in Alex Smith's life the past two years, he's still trying to sort through it all.

He's gone from being a frustrated freshman considering a transfer to leading Utah into college football's elite as the first team from a mid-major conference to play in a Bowl Championship Series bowl game. The next stop on his meteoric rise could be New York for Saturday's Heisman Trophy presentation.

He'll find out Wednesday if he's a finalist in a tightly contested race that is sure to leave at least a couple of viable candidates out of the mix.

"People ask me if I want to win the Heisman. Of course I'd love to. But I just want to get the junior quarterback sack. I think the experience would be great. It's something I don't want to miss. People get to go to in their life."

Smith's statistics are as good as any quarterback's. He's not back, but playing in the Mountain West Conference, those numbers get called into question because of the quality of competition.

His 28 touchdown passes, four interceptions and 2,624 passing yards seem to carry an asterisk. Despite completing 66 percent of his passes and rushing for 10 touchdowns, he's still considered a long shot to win the Heisman.

But by guiding the fifth-ranked Utes to an 11-0 record and a spot in the Fiesta Bowl, he might make the cut and get to go to New York — which surprises Smith as much as any body.

"I didn't know how I compared to other quarterbacks. I didn't know how much publicity we were going to get. That was the part that was so shocking to me. It's still shocking to me right now," Smith said. "When you're an athlete at Utah, you've had that mid-set for a long time because you probably didn't get recruited by big schools."

If Smith does go, he may be sitting with an old friend. Southern California running back Reggie Bush was one year behind Smith at Helix High School outside San Diego and could also be a Heisman finalist.

"He took a much more direct route," Smith said of Bush.

Smith wasn't widely recruited and ended up at Utah, where he spent a discouraging first semester under former coach Ron McBride.

He played in two games late in

the season as the Utes tried to snap out of a six-game losing streak, losing a year of eligibility.

Smith was so disheartened he thought about transferring if McBride stayed. McBride was fired after the season, so Smith decided to wait to see who was taking over. When he found out it was Urban Meyer from Bowling Green, he wasn't quite sure what to think.

"Honestly, when they announced it, I didn't know who he was and I had been following it pretty closely," he said.

That was two years ago this month and was a bigger turning point in Smith's life than he knew. Smith battled upperclassmen

Brett Elliott and Lance Rice through spring practice as all three tried to grasp Meyer's spread offense.

As the youngest of the bunch, Smith said he got the most attention.

"Everything I did was wrong and we were going to change it," Smith said. "My release was too slow so we got to get that up. We're going to change how you throw the ball. We're going to put 30 pounds on you. You're too small. We've got to get you faster..."

Meyer did succeed in getting Smith bigger. At 6 feet 4, he was only about 180 pounds when Meyer took over. He weighs about 210 now, still a little on the light side.

Learning the offense was a bigger challenge.

"He's gone from being a third-string quarterback to the best in college football," said Meyer, who accepted the coaching job at Florida last week. "I still believe that. I know some of these other guys are starting to put up some numbers, but I still believe Alex is as good as anybody in the country."

Smith didn't take over until the third game of the 2003 season.

Elliott had broken his wrist, leaving Smith as the starter against California. Soon completed 18 of 28 passes and rushed for a touchdown in his starting debut, a 31-24 victory over the Bears.

That's when things really started to make sense to me as far as understanding the offense. Things clicked as far as what we were trying to do," Smith said. "All of a sudden, I was like, 'OK, I kind of get this.' Everything slowed down for me."

As for this season, there's still the Fiesta Bowl against Pittsburgh.

"This is like, the season's not done," Smith said. "We still have something to prove."



Southern Cal is 25-1 when junior QB Matt Leinart (11) starts. He has passed for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns with six interceptions this season. Leinart finished sixth in Heisman Trophy balloting in 2003.

## Southern Cal thankful for injury that pushed Leinart to gridiron

Shoulder problem in high school made him quit baseball

BY JOHN NADEL  
The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Matt Leinart was quite a baseball prospect, showing so much promise as a left-handed pitcher that scouts took notice before high school.

"I threw heat, man," he said with a smile. "That's really what I wanted to do. And then, I blew my shoulder out, right after football season my freshman year."

Leinart would never pitch again, instead changing his focus to football.

Good move. Since succeeding Carson Palmer as Southern California's starting quarterback 15 months ago, Leinart has guided the top-ranked Trojans to a 25-1 record.

Leinart finished sixth in Heisman Trophy balloting as a sophomore last season, and he's among the leading contenders for this year's award, to be presented Saturday in New York. The finalists will be announced Wednesday.

It all began for Leinart with that shoulder injury.

"It's crazy how everything fell into place," Leinart said.

Leinart's shoulder was damaged to the point that he needed reconstructive surgery. And that wasn't the worst of it. Leinart's doctor recommended that as a precaution he not play competitive sports as a sophomore at Mater Dei High in suburban Santa Ana.

"It was pretty tough on him," said Leinart's father, Bob.

That's an understatement.

"I was really depressed," Leinart said. "Sports was my whole life. (But) it definitely made me a better person, going through that so young. But it sure was hard."

The 6-foot-5, 225-pound Leinart went on to become a star at Mater Dei, but he had to wait his turn at USC. And he almost got passed over, barely winning the starting quarterback job in a tight battle with three others in the spring of 2003.

Leinart hadn't thrown a pass at USC when he took his first snap

at Auburn the following fall, and he had to fill the shoes of the Heisman Trophy-winning Palmer.

No problem. Leinart passed for 3,556 yards and 38 touchdowns with only nine interceptions in leading the Trojans to a 12-1 record and The Associated Press national championship.

Some said the presence of Mike Williams and Keary Colbert, two of the country's top wide receivers, had a lot to do with Leinart's success.

Maybe so, but it was more of the same this year while breaking in new starting receivers. Leinart has passed for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns with only six interceptions in leading No. 1 USC (12-0) to the Bowl Championship Series title game in the Orange Bowl against No. 2 Oklahoma.

"Matt's made a huge progression since he's been here," USC tight end Alex Holmes said. "Since he started playing, he's been spectacular."

Offensive coordinator Norm Chow says Leinart is as good as any quarterback he's coached — and that's great company. Along with Palmer, Chow has tutored Philip Rivers at North Carolina State, and Steve Young, Ty Detmer and Jim McMahon, at BYU.

Leinart became a Heisman candidate not long after the 21-year-old junior led the Trojans

to their co-national title last season. Then it got a big boost on Nov. 27, when he passed for a career-high 400 yards and a school record-tying five touchdowns in a 41-10 victory over Notre Dame.

He might have come back to the pack last week, though. He was an efficient 24-for-34 for 242 yards with one interception in USC's 29-24 victory over UCLA. He didn't throw a touchdown pass for the first time as a starter.

Meanwhile, Leinart's backfield-mate Reggie Bush ran for 204 yards and two running TDs against the Bruins to bolster his Heisman resume.

The mild-mannered Leinart has taken all the hype and attention in stride.

"He is very laid back," his father said. "Nothing bothers him. He doesn't mind pressure. That's how he is, all the time. Except on the field. He's intense, but still calm. Where that comes from, I'm not sure. Don't ask me. It cracks me up."

Leinart said playing baseball before large crowds as early as age 11 helped mold him.

"That's one of the reasons I'm known as a cool, poised quarterback," he said. "It's just my personality. I just go with the flow, don't stress out about little things. I'm not going to get caught up in all the pressure, all the hype. It can all be taken away from you at any time."

## OU's White among finalists

BY RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Jason White has a chance to join Archie Griffin as a two-time Heisman Trophy winner.

White, the Oklahoma quarterback who won last year's Heisman, was chosen Wednesday as one of five finalists for college football's most prestigious individual title.

Joining White for Saturday's

award ceremony in New York will be his Oklahoma teammate Adrian Peterson, Southern California teammates Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, and Utah quarterback Alex Smith.

Among Heisman contenders who were not finalists were Texas tailback Cedric Benson, Auburn quarterback Jason Campbell and California's Aaron Rodgers and J.J. Arrington.

Ohio State's Griffin won the Heisman in 1974 and 1975 and is the only two-time winner.

## NFL statistics

## AFC individual leaders

Week 13				
	Att	Com	Yds	TD
Manning, Ind.	385	215	3,021	49
Rodriguez, Buff.	229	155	1,948	11
Smith, S.F.	229	155	1,948	11
Pennington, N.Y.	243	154	1,780	14
Brady, N.E.	257	159	1,769	11
Brady, N.E.	257	159	1,769	11
Plummer, Den.	236	158	2,072	22
Carri, Hou.	272	168	2,289	12
Vick, Atl.	216	152	9	11

Rushers				
	Att	Yds	TD	Int
Minn. N.Y.	282	1,309	46	25
Clinton, N.E.	264	1,256	40	2
Dillon, N.E.	254	1,221	48	44
Brady, N.E.	257	1,214	49	11
Tomlinson, S.D.	267	1,012	38	42
Brady, N.E.	257	1,012	38	42
Taylor, Jack.	217	980	45	13
Brown, Tex.	206	970	44	12
Holmes, K.C.	186	805	46	33
McGhee, Buff.	117	817	38	41

Receiving				
	No.	Yds	LG	TD
Mason, Tenn.	75	1,071	143	53
C. Johnson, Cin.	68	1,026	115	29
Johnson, Hou.	68	1,010	150	54
McGhee, Buff.	67	1,010	150	54
Gonzalez, K.C.	67	870	130	32
Scott, S.D.	64	811	132	39
Ward, Pitt.	64	800	125	58
J. Smith, Jack.	59	861	163	48
Stanley, Hou.	59	861	163	48
McGhee, Buff.	117	817	38	41

Punters				
	No.	Yds	LG	TD
Leach, Oak.	52	2,497	67	47.3
Leach, Oak.	52	2,497	67	47.3
Heinrich, Tenn.	53	2,236	64	43.9
Heinrich, Tenn.	53	2,236	64	43.9
Hanson, Jack.	52	2,175	69	43.1
Hanson, Jack.	52	2,175	69	43.1
Garibaldi, Pitt.	49	2,529	61	42.9
Larson, Cin.	49	2,529	61	42.9
Stanley, Hou.	50	2,096	57	42.0
Jo, Miller, N.E.	41	1,717	61	43.9

Punt Returns				
	No.	Yds	LG	TD
Hall, K.C.	28	113	44	66
Northeast, Cle.	28	113	44	66
Sims, Bal.	45	462	103	78
Clark, Buff.	23	227	99	59
Clark, Buff.	23	227	99	59
Wells, S.D.	30	303	93	35
Moses, Hou.	30	275	92	22
Randle, S.D.	15	154	60	40

Kickoff Returns				
	No.	Yds	LG	TD
McGee, Buff.	49	1,103	265	104
McGee, Buff.	49	1,103	265	104
Hall, K.C.	41	1,237	251	96
Hall, K.C.	41	1,237	251	96
Dwight, S.D.	45	1,118	248	87
Dwight, S.D.	45	1,118	248	87
Coleough, Pitt.	40	247	44	48
T. Edwards, Jack.	40	247	44	48
Gabriel, Oak.	40	231	22	64

Touchdowns				
	Yds	Rec	Ret	Pts
Holmes, K.C.	15	14	0	90
Tomlinson, S.D.	0	7	0	42
Harrison, Ind.	12	0	12	72
Harrison, Ind.	12	0	12	72
Brady, N.E.	11	11	0	66
Bettis, Pitt.	72	0	0	66
Brady, N.E.	11	11	0	66
Davis, Hou.	10	9	1	60
Dillon, N.E.	10	9	1	60
Stokley, Ind.	9	9	0	54

Kicking				
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Vinateri, N.E.	28-28	24-27	53	100
Graham, Cin.	28-28	24-27	53	100
Allen, Den.	28-28	24-27	53	100
Allen, Den.	28-28	24-27	53	100
Vanderjagt, Ind.	25-21	11-14	47	81
Allen, Den.	28-28	24-27	53	100
Tynes, K.C.	31-31	14-17	50	81
Brien, N.Y.	28-28	18-21	53	81
Brien, N.Y.	28-28	18-21	53	81

Team statistics				
	Average per game	Offense	Defense	Special
Indianapolis	426.1	128.8	297.3	35.0
Denver	385.0	128.8	297.3	35.0
New England	356.0	128.8	297.3	35.0
New York Jets	381.0	128.8	297.3	35.0
San Francisco	381.0	128.8	297.3	35.0
Oakland	330.0	168.0	224.0	35.0
Houston	321.0	176.0	250.0	35.0
San Diego	321.0	176.0	250.0	35.0
Pittsburgh	315.0	157.0	191.0	35.0
Atlanta	315.0	157.0	191.0	35.0
Buffalo	287.0	197.0	179.0	35.0
Gates, S.D.	277.0	194.0	182.0	35.0
Baltimore	277.0	194.0	182.0	35.0

Team statistics				
	Average per game	Offense	Defense	Special
Pittsburgh	253.0	74.0	176.0	35.0
Denver	253.0	74.0	176.0	35.0
San Francisco	253.0	74.0	176.0	35.0
San Francisco	253.0	74.0	176.0	35.0
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San Francisco	253.0	74.0	176.0	35.0

## NFC individual leaders

Week 13				
	Att	Com	Yds	TD
McNabb, Phil.	385	215	3,021	49
Culpepper, Min.	229	155	1,948	11
Smith, S.F.	229	155	1,948	11
Favre, G.E.	243	154	1,780	14
Brady, N.E.	257	159	1,769	11
Plummer, Den.	236	158	2,072	22
Carri, Hou.	272	168	2,289	12
Vick, Atl.	216	152	9	11

Rushers				
	Att	Yds	TD	Int
Akers, Sea.	272	1,309	46	25
Clinton, N.E.	264	1,256	40	2
Dillon, N.E.	254	1,221	48	44
Brady, N.E.	257	1,214	49	11
Tomlinson, S.D.	267	1,012	38	42
Brady, N.E.	257	1,012	38	42
Taylor, Jack.	217	980	45	13
Brown, Tex.	206	970	44	12
Holmes, K.C.	186	805	46	33
McGhee, Buff.	117	817	38	41

Receiving				
	No.	Yds	LG	TD
Horns, N.O.	75	1,071	143	53
C. Johnson, Cin.	68	1,026	115	29
Johnson, Hou.	68	1,010	150	54
McGhee, Buff.	67	1,010	150	54
Gonzalez, K.C.	67	870	130	32
Scott, S.D.	64	811	132	39
Ward, Pitt.	64	800	125	58
J. Smith, Jack.	59	861	163	48
Stanley, Hou.	59	861	163	48
McGhee, Buff.	117	817	38	41

Punters				
	No.	Yds	LG	TD
Leach, Oak.	52	2,497	67	47.3
Leach, Oak.	52	2,497	67	47.3
Heinrich, Tenn.	53	2,236	64	43.9
Heinrich, Tenn.	53	2,236	64	43.9
Hanson, Jack.	52	2,175	69	43.1
Hanson, Jack.	52	2,175	69	43.1
Garibaldi, Pitt.	49	2,529	61	42.9
Larson, Cin.	49	2,529	61	42.9
Stanley, Hou.	50	2,096	57	42.0
Jo, Miller, N.E.	41	1,717	61	43.9

Punt Returns				
	No.	Yds	LG	TD
Hall, K.C.	28	113	44	66
Northeast, Cle.	28	113	44	66
Sims, Bal.	45	462	103	78
Clark, Buff.	23	227	99	59
Clark, Buff.	23	227	99	59
Wells, S.D.	30	303	93	35
Moses, Hou.	30	275	92	22
Randle, S.D.	15	154	60	40

Kickoff Returns				
	No.	Yds	LG	TD
McGee, Buff.	49	1,103	265	104
McGee, Buff.	49	1,103	265	104
Hall, K.C.	41	1,237	251	96
Hall, K.C.	41	1,237	251	96
Dwight, S.D.	45	1,118	248	87
Dwight, S.D.	45	1,118	248	87
Coleough, Pitt.	40	247	44	48
T. Edwards, Jack.	40	247	44	48
Gabriel, Oak.	40	231	22	64

Touchdowns				
	Yds	Rec	Ret	Pts
Holmes, K.C.	15	14	0	90
Tomlinson, S.D.	0	7	0	42
Harrison, Ind.	12	0	12	72
Harrison, Ind.	12	0	12	72
Brady, N.E.	11	11	0	66
Bettis, Pitt.	72	0	0	66
Brady, N.E.	11	11	0	66
Davis, Hou.	10	9	1	60
Dillon, N.E.	10	9	1	60
Stokley, Ind.	9	9	0	54

Kicking				
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Vinateri, N.E.	28-28	24-27	53	100
Graham, Cin.	28-28	24-27	53	100
Allen, Den.	28-28	24-27	53	100
Allen, Den.	28-28	24-27	53	100
Vanderjagt, Ind.	25-21	11-14	47	81
Allen, Den.	28-28	24-27	53	100
Tynes, K.C.	31-31	14-17	50	81
Brien, N.Y.	28-28	18-21	53	81
Brien, N.Y.	28-28	18-21	53	81

T. Peterson, S.F.	15-15	17-20	51
Feely, Atl.	28-28	12-15	47
Rackers, Ariz	19-19	15-18	55

Team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME

OFFENSE

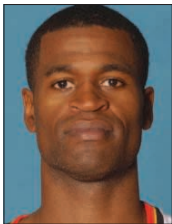
	Yards	Rush
Minnesota	397.3	119.7
Green Bay	397.1	128.0
St. Louis	375.2	106.7

## SPORTS

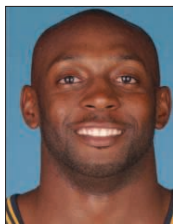
Kings win for 12th time  
in 13 games but don't make up  
any ground on Suns, Page 26



Ron Artest



Stephen Jackson



Anthony Johnson



David Harrison



Indiana Pacers' Jermaine O'Neal, left, was charged Wednesday with two counts of misdemeanor assault and battery for his role a brawl that began on the court and spilled into the stands at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Nov. 19. Pacers Ron Artest, David Harrison, Stephen Jackson and Anthony Johnson were charged with one misdemeanor count. Five fans also were charged in the incident.

# 10 charged in NBA brawl

## 5 Pacers, 5 fans face misdemeanors; chair-thrower charged with felony

BY SARAH KARUSH

The Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. — Five Indiana Pacers and five fans were charged Wednesday for fighting during the melee that broke out at the end of a nationally televised game against the Detroit Pistons last month.

Players Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, David Harrison and Anthony Johnson were charged with one count of assault and battery

in one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports history. Jermaine O'Neal, a three-time NBA All-Star, was charged with two counts of assault and battery.

All the fans were charged with misdemeanor assault and battery, including Pistons star Ben Wallace's brother, David. Bryant Jackson also was charged with felony assault for throwing a chair into the fray, Oakland County prosecutor David Gorceyca said.

The misdemeanor carries up to

three months in jail and a fine of up to \$500, and the felony carries up to four years in prison.

Gorceyca, however, said the players and fans would probably face probation and fines if convicted.

Gorceyca singled out spectator John Green, who faces two assault counts and, the prosecutor said, "single-handedly incited this whole interaction between the fans and players and probably is the one that's most culpable."

Green is accused of throwing a cup at Artest, splashing him and sparking the brawl.

John Ackerman and William Paulson, each facing an assault charge, also were accused of throwing cups in players' faces. In addition, two men were charged for walking onto the court at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Police said other fans could be charged, too.

Pacers chief executive Donnie Walsh said the team would not

comment until the case is resolved.

"In the meantime, we will continue to support our players in every possible way," he said.

James W. Burdick, Stephen Jackson's lawyer, said it was "unfair and inappropriate" to charge his client.

"The problem is this: a few crazed drunken fans who created a chaotic situation," Burdick said. "Steve responded in a way that he

SEE BRAWL ON PAGE 26

**Bush urges  
major leaguers to  
take 'strong steps'  
on steroid issue;  
Leiter leaves N.Y.,  
returns to Florida**

Page 28



**USC's Leinart,  
Utah's Smith  
top list of  
five finalists for  
Heisman Trophy**

Page 30

Southern Cal  
quarterback  
Matt Leinart

Utah  
quarterback  
Alex Smith



**No. 5 Oklahoma St. defeats No. 4 Syracuse** Page 27

